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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE civil war in America seems to have entered upon a new phase. The movement of Sherman through South Carolina is believed in the North to have necessitated the evacuation of Charleston; but this does not appear to be so certain as is assumed, as the preparations for the evacuation were made apparently before the Federal General's intentions were sufficiently developed to render the "cradle of the rebellion" untenable, and may possibly be part of the plan of abandoning the seaboard cities and concentrating the forces of the Confederacy for the defence of the interior, which, it is said, General Lee has advocated for some time past. Late events have made it abundantly clear that the forces of the South are inadequate to repel the advances of the Northern armies at so many different points, and that some new system of tactics must be adopted. The whole of the coast ports are now blocked up; they are of no further

service as ports of entry; the Confederacy is effectually shut in from intercourse with the external world; and, therefore, to keep garrisons in those places simply absorbs troops which might be more advantageously employed in the defence of the heart of the country. The wisdom of withdrawing more and more from the most vulnerable points, where the navy of the North can render immense aid to her armies, is therefore abundantly plain; besides, the plan ascribed to General Lee would give him the additional advantage of carrying the seat of war away from the base of operations of his opponents, and thus to a large extent weaken their action, while the further he retreats backward the more circumscribed becomes the area he has to defend. These, at all events, are the plans and ideas which General Lee is alleged to entertain, and they certainly seem to have some show of reason on their side. The military aspects of the contests are also considerably changed since the com-

mencement of the struggle. At first the South had the advantage of superior matériel in the rank-and-file of her armies, and markedly so in the greater skill and experience of her generals; and these facts to a large extent counterbalanced the advantages the North enjoyed in point of numbers, of wealth, and the facilities for procuring supplies and conveying them to the points where they were required. All this is now becoming changed. The leaders of the Northern armies have learned the art of war in the best possible school—the field. Her troops are now drilled into good soldiers, and are inured to campaigning. Hence, her immense preponderance in men and in wealth begins to tell; the contest is every day becoming more and more unequal, and can only be maintained on the part of the South by the adoption of a system of tactics suited to the character of the country and the relative position of the contending parties. All this, however, does not



RESTORING A FOUNDLING TO ITS MOTHER.—(FROM A PICTURE BY MISS EMMA BROWNLOW.)

by any means imply the speedy subjugation of the South. She has an immense territory to fall back upon—a territory well suited for defence, but hardly calculated to suit the purposes of an invading force. The North may march armies through the Southern States; but, without forces even more numerous than she has at her disposal, she cannot really conquer them or hold them in subjection. During the War of Independence the thirteen colonies were often in an infinitely worse plight than the Southern Confederacy is now, or is likely to be, for some time at least. The indomitable determination of the people and the firmness of their leaders enabled the colonies to triumph in the end; and if the same spirit animates the men of the South now, a similar result may follow. So far as we in Europe are aware, there are no serious indications of wavering on the part of the Southern people, although individuals may here and there be found who are disposed to "despair of the republic." Such persons are always to be found in all great struggles, and do not afford any test by which to judge the mass. If the statesmen, the generals, the soldiers, and the people of the South, continue to display the same qualities they have manifested hitherto, the North may yet find that, instead of the "backbone of the rebellion being broken," it is more rigid and unbending than ever, and that the most onerous part of the task of subjugation has still to be begun.

On other parts of the American Continent affairs present a far from pleasant aspect. Things don't seem quite satisfactory with the Emperor Maximilian in Mexico; and the uneasiness which prevails on the subject in France is increased by the reticence of the Government, which gives countenance to the fear that late accounts of disasters to the French arms are not without foundation; that reinforcements are about to be sent to Marshal Bazaine; and that the task of settling the affairs of Mexico is by no means completed. The war, too, between Brazil and the Uruguayan Republic continues; Montevideo is threatened; Spain is reported to be inclined to pick a quarrel with some others of the South American Republics, now that she has brought Peru to submission, and fresh complications may consequently arise. Altogether, the state of the New World is far from being a happy one, and the prospects of its people are everywhere sadly clouded.

At home we, too, have a serious trouble looming before us. One of our most important branches of industry is apparently on the brink of general paralysis in consequence of one of those contests between masters and workmen—between capital and labour—which are ever and anon cropping up to disturb, and to a large extent neutralise, our general prosperity. The state of affairs in Staffordshire is bad enough as it is. Thousands of stalwart men are even now lounging about in voluntary or enforced idleness; thousands more who are dependent upon them will soon be plunged in misery and want; but the present dimensions of the evils are as nothing compared to what they must assume should the "lock-out" extend to the iron and coal districts of Wales and the north of England and Scotland. We had hoped that the wise course lately adopted in the building trades of the midland counties would have been followed, in similar circumstances, by those engaged in other branches of industry; and we trust that even yet common-sense will guide the councils of both masters and men in the iron districts, and that they may be induced to refer the points in dispute between them to arbitration. If not, it is painful to contemplate the miseries to which the struggle they have just entered upon may lead. We offer no opinion upon the merits of the dispute; but we put it to the judgment of calm and reasonable men on both sides whether the attainment of the objects they have in view be worth the terrible sacrifices which must be made if the struggle goes on and extends itself, as it is likely to do if both parties continue obstinate.

Nobody's Children.

ON Sunday, the 12th of February, the name of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln was added to the list of distinguished preachers who have from time to time advocated one of the most noted of our great London charities. When Mr. and Mrs. Meagles went on Sundays to the chapel at the Foundling and discovered that the voices of the children opened their hearts, they only observed the custom of a great many people who, if they do not go for the same purpose, attain (it is to be hoped) the same result. And yet, familiar as the children's choir and all connected with the "Foundling" has become, there are perhaps few charities which have at the same time been so misunderstood and (partially as a result of early errors and abuses) so persistently misrepresented.

It is quite true that, although the institution retains its original name, it is no longer a foundling hospital, but it must be remembered that no modern sea captain in walking from Rotherhithe to the Royal Exchange would have his gentle heart grieved by the sight of infants left exposed by the wayside; and the history of the hospital will show that it soon became impossible to maintain a charity for the indiscriminate reception of infants, respecting whom no questions were to be asked.

In those Continental cities where there are institutions for the support of deserted children there exist no provisions analogous to our poor law; and a reference to those statistical tables, where rows of figures acquire a terrible interest from the fact that they represent totals of human lives, will show that the mortality amongst the little inmates of such places equals even, if it does not exceed, that which is recorded in the returns of the union workhouses of this country—the only real "Foundling Hospitals" which the condition of our incongruous poor law, and especially the law for the maintenance of illegitimate children, seems to contemplate.

Knowing, then, that of about 46,000 infants born out of wedlock in England and Wales and 4500 in London last year, nearly one half will probably die either in the workhouse wards or by infanticide. It is at least a cheering sight to see some four hundred little ones fed, clothed, and carefully tended in the only London institution which is competent to deal with even so much misery as may be prevented by receiving a proportion of Nobody's Children, and supplying the place of parents, the loss of whom may often be regarded as a positive benefit.

It is nearly 150 years since Captain Thomas Coram, who had lived for some time in Nova Scotia and had brought the necessity for improved legislation in that region under the notice of the Government, came home with a moderate fortune from the American plan-

tations, and, in his daily walks from Rotherhithe to the City, was greatly concerned at the sight of infants left exposed in the public streets. Having come to the conclusion that the destruction and desertion of children was attributable to the "want of proper means for preventing the disgrace and succouring the necessities of their parents," he set heartily to work to provide a refuge to which wretched mothers might carry their offspring and themselves be enabled to return to a virtuous and honest life. In 1741, and only after nearly nineteen years' advocacy of this work of mercy, the good old sea captain had obtained subscriptions sufficient for founding a hospital, and a wing of the present building was erected on the estate of fifty-six acres, which had been purchased in the Lamb's Conduit-fields for the sum of £5500. It was announced that at eight o'clock on a certain evening twenty children would be received who were not suffering from any contagious disease. That the persons bringing them should come in at the outward door and ring a bell at the inward door, and not go away until notice was given of reception. That no questions whatever should be asked of any person bringing a child, and that to each child should be affixed some distinguishing mark or token, so that the children might be afterwards known if necessary.

These tokens, many of which are still preserved, mostly consisted of small silver coins, crosses, lockets, empty purses, doggerel verses pinned to the infant's clothes, and, in one case, a lottery ticket, of which there is no further record, so that it may be presumed the number was an unlucky one.

The number of applicants increased so quickly after the opening of the hospital that painful scenes were soon presented at the doors, where a hundred women might be seen struggling and fighting for precedence, to put a stop to which the mode of reception was changed, and the children were afterwards admitted by ballot, every woman who drew a white ball being eligible. This necessity, however, itself indicated the difficulty which beset the undertaking; and all kinds of fraud were practised in order to place children in the institution—a state of things which was a source of great uneasiness to the honest founder, who, when he discovered that the managing committee were receiving children without any efficient method of ascertaining the claims of each case, made many representations which were so constantly disregarded, that he at length left the management of the institution in their hands.

In fifteen years after the opening of the hospital, the committee applied to Parliament for assistance, and it was designed to admit all exposed and deserted young children from all parts of the country, where nursing establishments should be formed. This extended scheme was countenanced by the Government, and a guarantee was given by Parliament that grants of money should be provided sufficient for the purpose.

The first day on which this general reception was announced a basket was hung outside the hospital gates, and 117 children were deposited as claimants of Government support. Then the gigantic error which had been committed became apparent; fathers and mothers with large families discovered an easy method of reducing their anxieties. The conveyance of helpless infants from remote country districts and their consignment to the hospital door, dead or alive, became a distinct part of the carrier's trade; and parochial officers, in the exercise of a sagacity which is still their distinguishing characteristic, took advantage of so favourable an opportunity for diminishing the rate, and their own responsibilities at the same time, by emptying the workhouses of the infant paupers, and taking newly-born children from mothers who required parish relief, in order to be rid of the burden that might otherwise be placed upon them.

For nearly four months this system, or want of system, continued, and during that period fifteen thousand children were consigned to the hospital basket. The inundation of infant life was more than the most robust charity could make head against. The provisions for dealing with such continual claims were insufficient, and the precautions for preserving the lives themselves were but partially understood. Of the 15,000 "foundlings" only 4400 lived to be apprenticed, the refuge became not an hospital, but a charnel-house, and the funds were exhausted.

Starting afresh, after this terrible failure, somebody whose name has not been recorded advised an entirely different scheme, which, though not so lamentable in its results, was still worse in spirit. This was, in fact, to admit children with the proviso that each temporary occupant of the basket should have a £100 note attached to it. This recommendation was adopted with considerable success, until a better counsel prevailed, and, in 1801, all such practices were abolished and the entire charity was placed under the organization which has continued to the present time.

By the present mode of admitting children certain rules are strictly enforced, the preliminary qualification being that the child shall be illegitimate and not that of a widow, the only legitimate children admitted being those of soldiers and sailors killed in the service of the country; that the child shall be under twelve months old; that the petitioner shall have borne a good character previous to the birth of the child; and that the father shall not be forthcoming, or, if found, so that he may be compelled to support the infant.

Further than this, the mother must not have applied to the parish for the maintenance of the child, and must not have been in any workhouse during her confinement; no money, fee, or perquisite must be taken by or offered to any officer of the hospital; and no petitioner is allowed to apply to any governor, officer, or servant of the charity, but must attend personally on Saturday mornings with their petitions and await the consideration of the committee. These petitions (which are clear, printed forms, to be obtained at the hospital) being considered worthy of inquiry, such inquiries are made forthwith by officers appointed for the purpose, and, if satisfactorily answered, the mothers receive notice to bring their children.

From the moment that the infant is received within the hospital, however, the mother holds no personal communication with her child until it leaves the institution. She receives a certificate containing the registered number of the infant; may make any inquiries at the hospital respecting it, and may visit the place and see all the children together—as, indeed, anybody may—at the proper times; but even supposing she recognises her own little one amongst that congregation of rosy, healthy-looking children, she cannot talk to it apart, and is ignorant even of the name it bears.

This name, which was formerly given from historical, fictional, and altogether fanciful sources, or was even sometimes bestowed by aristocratic godfathers and godmothers, is now probably taken by chance from the *London Directory*; so that the "foundling" may, in after years, rejoice in a nominal connection with the highest or the least dignified of his countrymen. When the infant is received it is taken to the chapel, there to be baptised, and, with a parchment label containing its number stitched to the shoulder-strap of its tiny frock, is handed to the wet-nurse from the district in Kent, to which all the infants are consigned till they are three years old, there to be brought up by cottagers, under the inspection of the visiting officers. Of the appearance and happiness of the children in the building itself anybody who chooses may be witness by attending the service at the chapel, where their fresh young voices ring in the choir on Sundays; or of the provision made for them anybody may judge by staying to see them at dinner afterwards; or of their general healthy enjoyments, cheerfulness, and unrestrained childlikeness (using the word in sad distinction from that dull, hopeless look of premature age so often seen in some other places where children are supported by charity) anybody may have ample evidence on any visiting day.

In the great lofty dining-halls, where above a hundred boys, a similar number of girls, and some fifty infants, of the average age of four years and a half, are eating with a will the hot roast mutton, whose savoury steam is but slightly mitigated by rice pudding; in the long clean airy wards, where every child in its separate bed can be seen by the nurse from out of a sort of blue check tent where she herself sleeps at the end of the room; in the great jovial kitchen, where there is evidence of good old-fashioned pies and puddings, and patent contrivances are supplemented by homelike appliances which counteract the dull mechanical appear-

ance generally presented by the cooking apparatus in such large establishments; in the fine light lofty school-rooms, with their great black boards for drawing and the chemical apparatus in a glass case behind the master's rostrum; in the vast infant school, where the flight of shallow steps on which the little toddlers sit and sing, are large enough for a Venetian palace, and are surmounted by a pair of rampant rocking-horses, such as it does one's heart good to see: in all these things the present condition of the "Foundling" is worthily shown.

Amongst the boys, such a band has been organised that many of the young musicians go at once into the Army when they are of an age to be apprenticed to a bandmaster; and, to judge by the admirable manner in which they perform difficult music, they seem to deserve, and indeed often obtain, places in crack regiments.

But the Foundling is nothing if it is not musical; for was not Mr. Handel one of its best supporters, and were not the performances of oratorios amongst the earliest means for increasing its funds?

At fourteen years of age the boys are apprenticed to such trades as they may choose, a premium of £10 being paid with each; and, as the Governors have taken the place of parents (though no governor has any privilege whatever in the introduction of a child to the hospital), very careful inquiries are made before the apprenticeship is concluded. The girls, who go out at fifteen, as domestic servants, are also apprenticed till they are twenty years of age. They are placed only where another servant is kept; where there are no lodgers; and only with persons who are housekeepers, are of the Protestant religion, and can give references as to respectability. Boys as well as girls receive an outfit of clothes on leaving the institution.

Further than this, however, the governors maintain their paternal character by inviting these apprentices to visit their "home" once a year (at Easter), and, as each employer is provided with a form, which he or she can fill up, concerning the docility, honesty, industry, and general good conduct of the apprentice, paternal advice, reproof, or exhortation is not wanting. Should the year's report be satisfactory, the youth or maiden receives a gratuity amounting sometimes to a sovereign; and anyone who reads the various certificates, which are annually bound in a neat volume, will be assured that "nobody's children" do infinite credit to their adopted parents. "Good," "good," "good," with very few exceptions, are the replies which masters and mistresses have written to these inquiries as to character. It is no wonder that, even after forty or fifty years of honourable work, some of the old "foundlings" still visit their well-loved home in Lamb's Conduit-fields and consult their good old friend (if he will forgive us for so calling him), Mr. Brownlow, the honorary secretary, as to the best investment for their savings.

We have spoken of the connection of this institution with music; still closer is its connection with painting; for, almost from the day when William Hogarth designed a "headpiece" to a power of attorney authorising collectors to receive subscriptions, down to the time that he bestowed upon the hospital his great picture of "The March to Finchley," and organised a company of artists to decorate the walls with their works, it was the meeting-place of British painters. These meetings, indeed, may be said to have been the foundation of the first national association of British art.

Down to our own day this connection has continued, and only a few weeks ago a graceful memorial to an eminent surgeon once connected with the hospital was furnished in a picture painted by Miss Emma Brownlow, an artist of no little ability. This painting represents the sick bed of one of the boys belonging to the institution, at which the surgeon is in attendance, surrounded by the nurses and some other hospital officials. A former painting presented by this lady, who is a daughter of the hon. secretary, is represented in our Engraving, and illustrates one of those incidents which sometimes occur on the improved circumstances or subsequent marriage of the mothers of one or other of the children, when the little "foundling" is restored to that maternal care of which it had never known the loss. The little story told by this picture and the rendering of the principal figures, including a very capital portrait of the secretary himself, make it an object of prominent interest to those who pay a visit to Nobody's Children.

A SAD ACCIDENT took place on Saturday afternoon off the Dorsetshire coast, by which five coastguard-men lost their lives. They were returning in their boat to Warburton with a cargo of stores from Weymouth, and when off Lulworth a heavy sea struck the boat and she went down at once. Boats were put off from the shore to their assistance, but long before they could reach them the unfortunate men were drowned.

MURDER OF AN ENGLISH MERCHANT IN PERSIA.—Sir F. Crossley, M.P., has received the following letter, relative to the murder in Persia of a Huddersfield merchant, from W. Hammond, and dated:—"Foreign Office, Feb. 10, 1865.—Sir, I am directed by Earl Russell to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., enclosing a letter from Mr. Edward Langfield, upon the subject of the circumstances under which his brother, Mr. Benjamin Langfield, had been murdered by some Persian soldiers near Shahrood, in July last; and I am to inform you in reply that her Majesty's Government has already received from her Majesty's Minister at Teheran the particulars of this melancholy occurrence, from which it appears that Mr. Benjamin Langfield, accompanied by his brother Abraham, passed through Teheran in February last on their way to Shahrood, with a view of speculating in cotton, and that they were duly warned by her Majesty's Secretary of Legation of the extreme risk they incurred by travelling in Persia without proper escort with large sums of money in their possession. It appears that, on July 22, as Mr. Langfield and his servant were proceeding from the port of Gey to Shahrood, on entering the district of Bostam, they were attacked by some cavalry belonging to the Persian army, who, after having shot both master and man, robbed the dead body of Mr. Langfield of all the money he had in his possession and decamped. Their bodies were subsequently recovered by a Christian resident of Shahrood, who had them removed to that place and buried there; their clothes and other articles found on them were placed in a room, where they are now locked up. Mr. Alison at once took measures to endeavour to trace the murderers and recover the stolen property, and with this view obtained the necessary order from the Shah to the Governor of Shahrood, and to the Persian Commander-in-Chief, for the discovery and arrest of the criminals. It does not appear, however, that those measures have as yet been attended with success; but instructions will be sent to Mr. Alison to make further inquiry into the matter and strong representations to the Persian Government. Mr. Alison speaks in high terms of the assistance rendered by the Russian Minister at Teheran and by the Russian Consul at Asterabad in the steps taken for the apprehension of the murderers."

GREAT "LOCK-OUT" IN THE IRON COUNTRY.—Some time ago the Staffordshire ironmasters resolved upon reducing the wages of the men in their employ. The North Staffordshire men struck against this reduction and refused to accept it; the men of South Staffordshire consented to the abatement and were willing to continue their work, but at the same time they agreed to support the malcontents in North Staffordshire by contributions from their earnings. At this the masters took alarm, and reasonably enough; for it was plain that if the Northern men could carry their point against their employers by the aid of the South they would afterwards enable the Southern men to accomplish the same objects in a similar fashion. These have been the tactics of trade unions for some time past. A general "strike," by impoverishing every district at once, would put the men at a disadvantage and leave them without the means of sustaining the contest. A local "strike," supported from earnings in other districts where work was continued, might be conducted with far better prospect of success, and might eventually be repeated, on the same favourable conditions, in one district after another. In former times this strategy would have been formidable; but the masters have now learnt organization from the men, and encounter them with their own weapons. Trade unions are now maintained in duplicate. Each district has its union of masters as well as its union of men, and one side is as well disciplined as the other. So, when the masters' union in South Staffordshire discerned the designs of their men, in supporting out of their earnings a strike in North Staffordshire, they at once resolved to stop these earnings and to deprive their adversaries of the sinews of war. They gave notice that, unless the North Staffordshire men came in and resumed work, they would "lock out" even the Southern men who were willing to go on; and thus the conflict has commenced. Where it will end no one can tell, for the iron trade of the whole kingdom is, as regards this double organisation, one industry. Already the ironmasters in Northumberland and Durham are opening the question with their men, and asking whether they intend to support the Staffordshire workmen or not. If they consent to stand aloof, the masters will keep their work open; if not, they will adopt the tactics of their brethren in South Staffordshire and "lock out" the hands in their employ. It is calculated that about 70,000 men will thus be thrown out of employment, and about 200,000 persons will be deprived of the means of subsistence.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The draught of the address of the French Senate, in reply to the Speech from the Throne, was read by M. Troplong on Monday. It is little more than a paraphrase of the speech itself, plentifully interlarded with verbose phrases of laudation of the Emperor's past policy and future programme.

M. Duruy, the French Minister of Public Instruction, on Wednesday, tendered his resignation to the Emperor. The Emperor, however, declined to receive it. The cause of this was antagonism between M. Duruy and the rest of the Cabinet on the subject of primary education. A report recommending compulsory instruction, and signed by M. Duruy, appeared the other day in the *Moniteur*. Next day's *Moniteur* disclaimed the report as official, represented it merely as the expression of an individual opinion, and put forward a scheme of quite a different kind as the Government project. M. Duruy's side was taken at the Privy Council by Prince Napoleon, who is a warm advocate of compulsory education, and is believed, indeed, to have urged the preparation of the report which led to this little dispute.

A despatch from Admiral Mazeres, published in Paris, announces the capture of a French detachment at San Puebla by the Juaristas. The occurrence seems to have been the result of treachery on the part of a Mexican escort. Marshal Bazaine, in a recent despatch, it is said, urgently calls for reinforcements, failing which the whole enterprise, he thinks, must be abandoned.

ITALY.

The King has left Milan for Florence.

The Chamber of Deputies has begun the discussion of the proposal to abolish capital punishment. The Minister of Justice declared himself in favour of the abolition on principle, but he did not think the present condition of public safety allowed of an immediate abolition.

AUSTRIA.

In the sitting of the Finance Committee of the Lower House, on the 8th, the Minister of Finance declared that the Government intended to maintain their proposals respecting the reductions in the Budget for 1865, and stated that they did not regard the report of the sub-committee as suitable for further discussion. The Finance Committee thereupon resolved to break off negotiations with the Government on the subject. The discussion of the military Budget was then concluded, and the reduction of 15,900,000 florins was agreed to.

PRUSSIA.

The Prussian Chamber of Deputies have a new ground of complaint against the Government. The Landrath (or Prefect) of the historic district of Eylau lately took a prominent and public part in urging a Government candidate, after the French fashion, on the electors. This was complained of in the Chamber; but the Minister of the Interior, so far from disclaiming the act of the Landrath, highly commended it, and expressed a hope that all officials placed in a similar position would hereafter adopt the same course. Great indignation was felt at this declaration, and it was accepted as the announcement of a policy which, defective as is the constitutional system of Prussia, the country has not yet known. The local power of a Landrath is very great, especially as regards the levying of direct taxation, and it is a serious grievance that he should be allowed to bring his influence to bear upon an election.

GERMANY AND THE DUCHIES.

It is stated in a telegram from Paris that, in consequence of Austria having rejected the proposals of Prussia respecting the duchies, Prussia has now adopted the plan suggested by France—that is, to restore to Denmark the Danish portion of Schleswig and to incorporate with Prussia the remainder of Schleswig and all Holstein and Lauenburg. It is added that though Austria is no party to this arrangement, she will not object to it.

RUSSIA.

The Assembly of the Nobles of the government of Pskoff have met and passed resolutions similar to those agreed to at Moscow. A deputation is about to leave Pskoff for St. Petersburg to request the Emperor to convoke the States-General.

GREECE.

The revolutionary party, under the leadership of Bulgari, and the party favourable to the ex-King Otho, under the leadership of Miaoulis, have formed a coalition, their avowed object being constitutional opposition to the present Government. The Public Treasury is empty, and a loan of 500,000 drachmas has been concluded with the National Bank. The deficit of last year was 6,000,000 drachmas, and the deficit this year was expected to exceed that amount. Revolutionary proclamations have been issued in Livadia and public tranquillity disturbed in Cephalonia. Three Ionians who had been appointed Councillors of State have refused the nomination. The Minister of the Interior has been coldly received at Corfu.

PORTUGAL.

After considerable difficulty a new Ministry has been formed, composed as follows:—President of the Council and Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Duke de Loulé; Minister of the Interior, the Marquis de Sabugoza; Minister of Justice, Senhor Ayres de Gouveia; Minister of Marine, Senhor Anselmo Broasmeame; Minister of War, the Marquis de Sá da Bandeira; Minister of Finance, Senhor Mathias de Carvalho.

MONTEVIDEO.

Great alarm prevailed in Montevideo on Jan. 29. The attack of the Brazilian army under Flores was momentarily expected. Active preparations were being made for defence.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN.—The view of this structure, published in our last week's Number, was engraved from a very excellent photograph by Messrs. Millard and Robinson, Lower Sackville-street.

AT THE MAGHERA PETTY SESSIONS, the other day, a young woman was fined 30s. for emptying a kettle of boiling water about the head and shoulders of a young man. It seems the complainant—a former lover—had spoken somewhat disparagingly of the fair defendant, who decided on having revenge.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PETITIONS mentions in their last report that the petition of Mrs. McDermott relative to the alleged abduction of her daughter is 47 ft. 4 in. in length! The petition, it seems, contains a mass of extracts from newspapers, copies of testimonials, depositions before magistrates, correspondence, certificates, and statements of conversations relating to the case.

A DISSOLUTE FELLOW, who devoted his whole time to drinking, was found to be too drunk to leave a public-house he had visited, the other night, at Hartlepool, and was, thereupon, laid before a large fire in the parlour of the house, by the landlord, to sleep off the effects of his debauch. During the night, the fire burnt up more briskly than was anticipated, and in the morning the helpless drunkard was found roasted to death.

LIBERIA AND THE SLAVE TRADE.—On the 4th inst. the Minister of Portugal, the Count de Lavradio, and Mr. Gerard Ralston, the Consul-General of the negro Republic of Liberia, signed, at the Legation of Portugal in London, on behalf of their respective Governments, a treaty of amity, regulating the commercial and other relations of the two States. One of the articles of this treaty condemns those engaged in the slave trade to the punishment that would be inflicted on persons engaged in piracy. The same rule was established in the treaty entered into between Liberia and the Republic of Hayti.

THE ELECTOR OF HESSE OVERMATCHED.—Some of the German journals affirm that the Elector of Hesse has at length found his master—not Count de Bismarck, but M. Uhlmann, the agent of Carlotta Patti. The impresario having hired the Court Theatre at Cassel, the Elector's Chamberlain mentioned that, of course, his Highness would have free admission to his box. "Not at all," said M. Uhlmann; "if he wishes to hear Mdle. Patti he must pay." "In that case," replied the Chamberlain, "you must pay for the gas of the theatre." "That is your business," was the answer; "and if you do not light up, we shall perform in the dark." The functionary, finding he could get nothing out of the director, went to inform his Sovereign of the incredible audacity of the lessee. The Elector, usually so prompt to fly into a passion, only laughed, and replied, "He is an ill-mannered fellow, but he pleases me; and will pay." His Highness sent fifteen napoleons for his box, and had the theatre brilliantly lighted.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

THE FALL OF CHARLESTON.

Our advices from New York extend only to the 22nd ult., the steamer due on Wednesday last not having arrived at the time we are compelled to go to press.

The Confederates evacuated Charleston, South Carolina, on the night of the 17th ult., after destroying two ironclads and spiking the guns in the fortifications. Six thousand bales of cotton in the upper part of the city were ordered to be burnt, and, the flames communicating to a quantity of ammunition stored in the Wilmington Railway dépôt, an explosion took place, spreading the fire in all directions and killing and injuring several hundred citizens. It is estimated that upwards of two thirds of the city was destroyed. The evacuation was not discovered by the Federals until the morning of the 18th, when a force from James Island took possession and occupied the forts at two p.m. on that day. Admiral Dahlgren and General Gilmore, on board of gun-boats, steamed up the harbour and landed at the wharf. They found nobody in the city but negroes and the poorer part of the population, all the richer citizens having left a fortnight or three weeks previously, in anticipation of the evacuation. The official despatches of General Gilmore report that 200 cannon and a small quantity of ammunition fell into his hands. In honour of this success, and of the replacing of the Federal flag upon Fort Sumter, the President ordered national salutes to be fired from every arsenal and military headquarters in the United States on the anniversary of Washington's birthday, and the State Department at Washington to be illuminated in the evening. On the 16th Sherman moved westward along the Congaree River, and during the night crossed to the north bank above Columbia. Beauregard immediately evacuated the city, retiring towards Charlotte, North Carolina. On the following day Sherman occupied Columbia, but at once pursued Beauregard with the bulk of his army, sending at the same time a detachment in the direction of Charleston. At the last accounts, on the 19th, Sherman was at Wimsborough, thirty miles north of Columbia.

A correspondent, writing from New York on the 21st ult., says:—The evacuation of Charleston will be celebrated to all future time as among the grandest and gloomiest events of the war. It appears to have been determined upon by General Lee immediately after his assumption of the supreme military power conferred upon him by the President and the Legislature, and heartily approved by the people of the South. There are indications that the first movements to this end commenced fully three weeks ago, and it is positively known that the principal citizens and the bulk of the army had withdrawn four days before the Federal commanders had any suspicion of the fact; and when the Northern forces entered the almost abandoned city, they found that the Confederates had determined to make a Moscow of it, and that the arrival of the foe was to be the signal for its destruction. Six thousand bales of cotton and two ironclads were ruthlessly destroyed lest they should fall into the hands of the enemy; the arsenals, containing large quantities of arms and ammunition, the quartermaster's stores, the railroad station and bridges, the vessels in the building-yards, and fully two thirds of the once beautiful and flourishing city were reduced to ashes; the other third, fronting the sea, having been so riddled by the shot and shell of the besiegers during the last six or eight months as to be virtually uninhabitable. None but the poorest portion of the population, chiefly negroes, were left behind. All the rest had departed, bearing with them, there can be no reason to doubt, a spirit of vengeance which will yet blaze forth in new and fiercer struggles.

GENERAL NEWS.

Wilmington despatches state that Porter's fleet bombarded Fort Anderson, on Cape Fear River, for twenty-four hours on the 17th and 18th, during which a land force assaulted the fort, but was repulsed. The bombardment was still in progress at one p.m. on the 18th. A despatch from the Associated Press agent at Baltimore, dated the 22nd, states that the fort had been captured by the army and navy, but that most of the garrison escaped to Wilmington, whither the combined forces immediately followed. The guns of the fort were uninjured.

A squadron of Confederate cavalry entered Cumberland, Maryland, on the night of the 20th, surprised the guard, and carried off Generals Kelly and Crook. A detachment of Federal cavalry started in pursuit, but had not been heard from.

General Joseph E. Johnston's official report of the operations of the Confederate army of the Tennessee while under his command, dated Oct. 20 last, had been published. He justifies his withdrawal from Dalton upon the grounds that, as Sherman's army outnumbered his three to one, and was supported by an impregnable base at Chattanooga, it would have been impolitic to offer battle then, as victory could not have been rendered decisive, and defeat would have been ruinous; he hoped, therefore, by retiring slowly and repulsing the enemy's attacks upon entrenched positions and attacking him at ungarded points to reduce the disparity in numbers and at the same time approach the Confederate stronghold at Atlanta, when the relative position of the two armies would have been reversed and a general engagement might have produced the best results. His removal from command of the army on the 17th of July, immediately after the passage of the Chattahoochee, prevented the soundness of his policy from being proved.

The Confederate flag-of-truce steamer *Schultz*, while ascending James River on the 17th, was destroyed by a torpedo exploding under her. Two negroes were killed by the explosion, and two soldiers were blown into the water and drowned. Several other persons who were on board were rescued.

Captain Semmes, late of the Alabama, had been promoted to Rear-Admiral, and placed in command of the James River fleet.

President Lincoln had decided to appoint Mr. Hughes M. Callough, of Indiana, present Controller of the Currency, to succeed Mr. Fessenden in the Treasury.

The draught had been commenced in Brooklyn, but excited little interest.

There had been no further movements in Virginia; and the other news is not of importance.

THE SEA SERPENT.—The sea serpent has appeared to Captain Charles Aubin, of the Blonde, a vessel belonging to Jersey. The auspicious day was the 4th of September last, the time a quarter past seven in the evening, and the precise spot 119 S. lat. and 9 E. long. Captain Aubin says he noticed, at the time and place mentioned, "a long white streak of great length approaching the ship. When within 12 ft. to 15 ft. of the vessel's bow observed that it was a fish of immense length, at least 200 ft. to 250 ft., apparently in shape like an eel, about 3 ft. thick in the body. The fish moved in an undulating motion against the current, moving very slowly and without noise. It was witnessed by myself and the whole of the crew."

A NEW GUNPOWDER.—The explosion at Erith has led to the manufacture of a new gunpowder, the discovery of Mr. L. H. G. Ehrhardt, a German. It consists of tannic gallic acid, or the resin of commerce, and chlorate or nitrate of potash. The new gunpowder is stated to be of three times the explosive force of that now in use and one half cheaper. It leaves no residuum when exploded. It can also be kept in magazines with safety by the resin and preparation of potash being kept separately and mixed as wanted, both the articles named being incombustible by themselves. If it bear the test of actual experiment, a saving of one third will be effected; and, the combustion being entire, it will remove all objections to rifled firearms, such as the fouling of Enfield rifles and Armstrong guns.

THE HISTORY OF BREACH-LOADING.—A lecture on the subject of "Early Breach-loaders" was delivered at the United Service Institution, on Monday evening last, by Mr. John Latham, of the firm of Wilkinson and Co., Pall-mall. The lecturer has been long engaged in examining and studying the various applications of the principle of breach-loading, both foreign and British, and especially those found in the arms preserved in the great museums of Woolwich and the Tower; and the results of his researches are not a little curious and important at a moment when it is a pressing question which is the best form of breach-loading for the British Army. Mr. Latham commenced by showing that breach-loading, so far from being a modern invention, is in reality of great antiquity; and that the earliest breach-loaders, instead of being, as has been stated, of French or of English origin. He then traced the successive stages of the invention from as early as the time of Edward III. down to the introduction of the present system for sporting arms. By means of lucid description and a series of admirable drawings, it was proved that every modern system of breach-loading, even those by Sir William Armstrong and the extension of the principle to revolvers, and for which numerous patents have been obtained, have had earlier prototypes; and, more than this, that it is very possible that at least one of the old mechanical contrivances may, owing to recent improvements in ammunition, be found more advantageous than any yet proposed for adoption. The lecture is, like others by the same gentleman, to be published in the *Journal* of the institution.

GREAT FIRE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

By far the most terrible calamity which has shocked the public mind of Constantinople for thirty years past happened at Galata on Monday night, the 20th of February. Shortly after eleven o'clock p.m. a fire broke out in one of the wings of the Roman Catholic convent of St. Benoit, and, notwithstanding the utter absence of wind, the flames rapidly spread to the adjoining apartments, and thence to the thickly-clustering houses outside the convent inclosure. The fire quickly spread its own alarm, and within little more than half an hour after its first appearance nearly a dozen fire-engines, with a strong muster of *tolounbajees*, a numerous force of police, and a company of marines from the arsenal, were on the spot. Halil Pacha also arrived promptly from Tophaneh with half a company of artillerymen, and the foreign gun-boats in the harbour at the same time dispatched each a fire-engine and a strong crew to work it. The intricate arrangement of the building, however, coupled with almost entire want of water, for awhile defied all attempts to reach the rapidly extending flames, which soon engulfed the whole north-eastern angle of the convent, and, flinging their fiery spray across the narrow streets on each side, ignited the wooden houses along a line of more than a hundred yards. The first efforts of the salvors were directed to the large stone building in the corner of the quadrangle which formed the sleeping quarters of the sisters and the female pupils of the establishment. These were all safely rescued, but barely with the clothes they were able to wrap round them in the moment of escape. While this was being effected inside the inclosure, the fire was making rapid progress among the houses outside. The whole of these being of wood, and as dry as tinder, the flames literally licked up house after house till stopped in their progress, on the one side by a pile of stone buildings down near the Armenian church, and on the other, towards Tophaneh, by a wide gap effected by the demolition of a row of hovels in that direction. In the mean time, however, the great disaster of the night had happened. Shortly after midnight a body of some sixty *tolounbajees*, with four engines, had stationed themselves along the outside wall of the high stone building in the corner of the convent quadrangle already mentioned, considering themselves sheltered by the wall from the flames within, and being well placed from that point for playing on the wooden buildings already ignited on the other side. The apparent safety of the spot had also collected on and around it several of the policemen and inspectors, of whom, as is usual, a large crowd had by this time gathered from all parts of Pera and Galata. Suddenly, and without even a warning crack, the eastern and southern walls of this lofty building toppled outwards, literally cresting over the doomed crowd below like the curve of a breaking wave, and burying under their débris all four of the engines mentioned, with the whole of their crews and a large number of the police and onlooking crowd. Not a man who had stood within the fatal shadow of the fallen walls escaped. Almost simultaneously a portion of the western wall fell over on a small, densely-inhabited house outside the convent limits, and, crushing through its roof, killed, it is said, eight of its inmates, who were engaged in endeavouring to rescue their effects. For a time this terrible disaster paralysed all efforts to check the conflagration outside the convent, and, as the remaining wall threatened momentarily to give way too, no attempt was made to reach the mangled and dying, whom the ruins of the other walls had only partially hid from sight. Of these many were seen to make agonising but ineffectual efforts to extricate themselves from the charred masses of brick and wood which only half-entombed them, and then gradually to cease the vain struggle as suffocation or other cause of death did its work. This part of the scene was harrowing beyond any power of description. The vigorous play of the ships' engines from the inside of the convent quadrangle, aided by the calmness of the night, had, in the mean time, checked the spread of the flames to the western wing of the building; not, however, before the small circular dome and roof of the chapel on the one side, and the dormitories of the female pupils and store-rooms on the other, had been seriously damaged. Outside, the fire was virtually unopposed, the disasters to their fellows under the convent wall having apparently unnerved the other *tolounbajees* on the ground. There was, besides, an almost complete want of water. It was not, therefore, till the flames had burnt themselves out on all sides to the gaps made in their path by the pulling down of distant houses that the conflagration may be said to have been got under. This was about 7 a.m., by which time, beside the damage done to the convent, in all forty-two houses and four shops had been destroyed. But for the providential absence of wind, however, this would have been but a trifling instalment of the widespread devastation that must have occurred; for had the flames spread down on the one side towards Tophaneh, or on the other crossed the old dyke higher up, the fire must have spread in one direction to far beyond the Yenitchars, and in the other from the Töké to the Russian palace. The total number of victims to this great calamity is believed to exceed 100.

TESTIMONIAL TO SIR ROWLAND HILL.—A most graceful tribute to the value of the services rendered to the country by Sir Rowland Hill was paid on Monday evening. A deputation of gentlemen representing the merchants and shipowners of Liverpool presented to Sir Rowland, at his own house, three pictures as a testimonial of the high estimation in which they hold his improvements in the postal arrangements of the country. Sir Rowland had been consulted on the form which he would desire the testimonial to take, and selected pictures by Stanfield, Grewcock, and Cook.

THE SAILORS' HOME, LONDON DOCKS.—The new building of the Sailors' Home, Well-street, London Docks, will be opened shortly after Easter; and the directors announce that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has been pleased to declare his intention of inaugurating the work so auspiciously begun in August, 1863, under the patronage of the Prime Minister. This building is a very imposing structure. It stands in Dock-street, adjoining the Seamen's Church, at the rear of the old home in Well-street, and, when completed, will give increased accommodation to a large number of the sailors who frequent the port of London. The directors of the institution have appealed for funds to clear off their liabilities.

THE NEW TOWNHALL AT ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

WE of the old colony are sometimes apt to regard the "great public events" which are of so much importance in the lively young towns of our great, healthy colonies as very simple affairs, to be regarded with the same sort of benignant recognition and sense of superiority that we bestow upon the efforts of a fine, growing boy who has just left school and is ready to make a figure in the world. The truth is, however, that our colonists have the same knack as ourselves of driving events so quickly onwards that when we have time to look after them we discover how easily we are mistaken in our estimate of their progressive ability.

Where there was nothing but a forest-clearing, a few months ago, there is now a thriving town, with a mine or two at work in an outlying village; and where yesterday, wild in the bush, the ignoble savage lurked, there is to-day, beyond the outlying patches of scrub, a fine, handsome city, with its townhall, theatre, bank, Government House, bridges, churches, and—so rapid are the effects of civilisation!—its prison. There are few more remarkable examples of a rapidly-established capital than that of Adelaide, the metropolis of South Australia, a town which lies embowered in woods on the narrow sandy belt near St. Vincent Gulf, and whose picturesque streets—quaint and pretty as those of Wiesbaden or Cheltenham—are surrounded or even intersected with park lands. Of course, as the colony of South Australia was only established by Act of Parliament in 1835 and proclaimed in the following year, the capital has at present but little to record in its archives. It was founded in 1840, and, from circumstances over which young colonies have very little control, was unsuccessful in establishing a Corporation until nine years afterwards, when the city was divided into four wards, named respectively after Governors Hindmarsh, Gawler, Grey, and Robe. In 1861 an Act provided that the Corporate Chamber should consist of a Mayor and eight Councillors, and that the Mayor should be elected by the citizens on the 1st of December in each year. As the business of the Corporation increased it was found that the council had outgrown the capacities of the existing civic

building, and it was determined to add to the already numerous public edifices the fine Town-hall represented in our Engraving.

At an expense of £20,000, the citizens have erected a very handsome and commodious building, the excavations for which have been made into cellars for the magnetic batteries belonging to the telegraph office, which occupies a place on the left side of the grand entrance. This entrance, which contains the principal staircase, is 43 ft. long by 27 ft. wide, and a broad passage leads to the city council chamber; while in connection with this apartment a fireproof room is provided for the town clerk's office, where the records are to be kept.

At the southern end of the building a doorway opens on the road which separates the Corporation Acre from the Government offices, and the eastern portion is occupied by a suite of offices for the city surveyor, inspector, and other persons employed by the Corporation. From this end a staircase leads to the refreshment-room, 43 ft. by 24 ft.; and on the right are situated the kitchen and its appurtenances, with a hoist to raise fuel and other supplies from the cellar.

On the right of the grand entrance is the principal entrance to the exchange, which is a very handsome room, measuring 62 ft. by 28 ft. The great staircase leads to a spacious landing, which gives access, by means of sliding doors, to the grand hall, to the robing-rooms, to the open corridor, to the gallery of the hall, and to the staircase of the tower. The grand hall is a magnificent apartment, 107 ft. long and 67 ft. wide, with a height of 43 ft. from the floor to the ornamental ceiling. Immediately opposite the great entrance an arched recess has been prepared for an organ, which is about to be erected. The gallery will contain 200 persons; and the walls are pierced with a series of enriched windows, while the corners of the hall are rounded and niched for statuary. The front of the building (73 ft. in width) shows an arcade, over which is the open colonnade, surmounted with a Corinthian cornice. The arcade itself consists of a series of massive freestone arches.

The tower, which is named the Albert Tower, after the late Prince Consort, is included in the main building until it emerges from the roof. It is 145 ft. high to the top of the vane, and is composed entirely of stone, and immediately over the cornice of the main building, bears the city arms; while the next compartment shows, on the north, south, and west aspects, clock faces 8 ft. in diameter. Above this comes the belfry, which the ex-Mayor (Mr. English) proposes shall be furnished with a peel of bells similar to those which were so admired at the Great Exhibition, and that they shall be named, with the tower, in honour of the late Prince Consort.

The citizens have taken this matter up very ardently, and a subscription has already been raised for the purchase of the bells, which they are pleased to believe will remind them of the Old Country, to which they are still proud to belong. The whole building, from the capacious cellarage to the lantern of this fine tower, is highly creditable to the architects, Messrs. E. W. Wright and Woods, who have designed a building upon which the colony may well congratulate itself, and which will be a lasting ornament to the capital.

ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

A CHAMBER of commerce is not an institution with the nature, functions, and objects of which Londoners are very familiar. No such body exists in the metropolis, although almost every city and town of note in the three kingdoms possess an organisation under this title. These bodies, which had their origin in Glasgow, are voluntary associations of merchants, manufacturers, and others interested in affairs of trade; and have been formed for the purpose

were now twenty-seven chambers of commerce in active working with the association. Those chambers represented a great deal of the commercial intelligence of the country; and he was happy to say that the income arising from their subscriptions made the association self-supporting, with the exception of the extraordinary expenditure chiefly arising from the recent movement of the association in Austria. The leading journal had thought fit to infer that the association was weak because three of the most important places in the country, Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow, were not connected with it. The association would, certainly, be very glad to have their co-operation, and it was not the fault of the association that those important towns stood aloof; but while the association represented the entire county of York, and the towns of Birmingham, Bristol, Wolverhampton, and other places, it felt itself sufficiently strong to labour effectually for the good of commerce, even without the joint action of those three chambers. The chairman then adverted to the establishing of free trade with Austria, and said that efforts had been made to bring about a more liberal commercial policy in that country. A commission of inquiry had been appointed by the Austrian Government, similar to that appointed by the Emperor of the French a year or two ago, and it might be anticipated with some confidence that the steps taken would lead to some modification of the protective policy of Austria, and which would tend greatly to increase the wealth of the two countries. He concluded by observing that the labours of the association had been productive of great good to the commercial interests of the country, and then moved that the report and accounts (which had been taken as read) be adopted.

This motion having been agreed to, the association proceeded to consider a variety of subjects interesting to the mercantile classes, the discussion of which occupied the sittings during several days.

taking cognisance of all matters interesting to, or bearing on, the welfare of the mercantile world. Besides meetings and discussions in their several localities, the chambers of commerce of the United Kingdom have an association, which holds an annual meeting or conference for the interchange of ideas on the leading topics of the day bearing upon matters falling within their province. This annual conference was this year held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, when the following, among other towns, were represented:—

Darlington, Hull, Halifax, Bristol, Gloucester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Kendal, Leeds, Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Sheffield, Bradford, Nottingham, Derby, Birmingham, various places in the south of Scotland, the Staffordshire Potteries, Middlesbrough, &c. There were also present a considerable number of members of Parliament, including Messrs. E. Baines, E. A. Leatham, G. Moffatt, M. Bass, Somerset Beaumont, W. Davenport Bromley, W. E. Forster, G. Hadfield, J. Somes, J. Clay, W. Buchanan (Glasgow), and Sir F. Crossley.

Mr. Sampson S. Lloyd, the chairman of the association, presided, and, in opening the business of the meeting, said the standing committee were glad to meet their fellow-delegates, and able to announce to them a large accession of members to the association. Ther



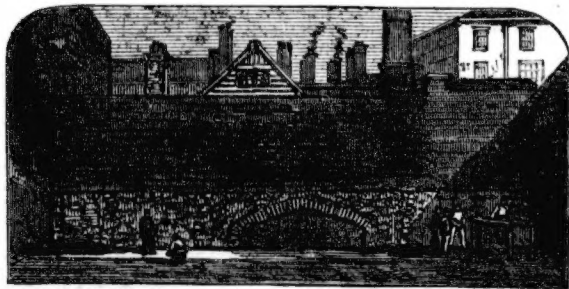
NEW TOWNHALL, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—(WRIGHT AND WOODS, ARCHITECTS.)

THE BALL GIVEN BY THE MINISTER OF THE FRENCH MARINE.

AMONGST the numerous balls and entertainments with which the fashionable world of Paris enlivens the season before Lent there have been few this year more truly select and exclusive than that given by the Minister of Marine and Mdme. La Marquise Chasse-loup-Laubat. This entertainment was necessarily exclusive, select, and yet brilliant and distinguished, because it was given by the Minister to the Ministry. "Everything which taste aided by wealth and luxury could invent to please the eye was there," says an enraptured French writer; "the splendidly-decorated saloons were inundated with light, and the thousand flames of the wax candles were reflected ten thousand times over, not only in the mirrors but in the precious stones of head-dresses, tiaras, bracelets, and other ornaments decorating the fair guests. A gallery, constructed for the purpose, served as a sort of ante-room to the magnificent saloons overlooking the Place de la Concorde, and the élite of Parisian official society were alone invited on so great an occasion."

SOME FRAGMENTS OF THE OLD LONDON WALL.

DURING the reign of her present Majesty—as was the case in that of Queen Elizabeth—London has assumed a new and improved aspect; and so great have been the changes that those who were well acquainted with the metropolis and its suburbs would now fail to recognise many once-familiar scenes. Within the City boundaries there are but few streets that have retained the features of a date so recent as that of George III.'s time. The heavy wooded window-framing has given way to metal-work and huge sheets of plate glass, and the dim oil and other lighting to the brilliant gas. In the course of making these alterations many interesting old landmarks have been removed, and places which have been associated with the memory of eminent personages are no longer visible. Yet, there are still to be found within the bounds of this vast capital objects of old-world date of rare curiosity. We have, for instance, the famous old abbey at Westminster, in all its picturesque beauty; and even in connection with the Parliament palace fragments of ancient date have been restored, and will be preserved for centuries yet to come; and diligent search in localities which have formerly been celebrated will, in many ways, repay the antiquary for the trouble of investigation. Take, for instance, the wall to which the Londoners formerly looked for a chief means of defence, and which, from the time of the Roman occupation to the reign of Henry VIII., had been regarded as a safeguard in times of trouble and tumult. Many think that, stone walls being no longer useful, the thick, substantial fortifications which once girt London have been altogether removed; but a walk, guided by a map of London before the Great Fire, will remove this impression. From the Thames, near the present Blackfriars Bridge and St. Martin's-court, near where Lud Gate formerly stood, there is now no vestige of the wall standing above the surface. In St. Martin's-court there will be found the fragments shown in two of our Engravings. Lud Gate has been removed; but even parts of this are still preserved in the Marquis of Hertford's grounds in Regent's Park; and near the back part of Williams's dining-rooms, in a builder's stoneyard, may still be seen the interior of a tower which had been situated close to Lud Gate. Further eastward, after passing through the Old Bailey Courts, in the part where the steam-machinery for ventilating the building has been placed, a portion of the western face of the wall will be found, which may be seen by pushing open the wooden gate at the bottom of



PART OF THE LONDON WALL AT THE BACK OF THE OLD BAILEY. THE AMEN CORNER VIEW.



BASTION, CRIPPLEGATE CHURCHYARD.

Amen-corner; and in the direction of Green Arbour-court, Old Bailey, there is another singular fragment of rugged stonework, which some imagine to have been an outer defence at this point. Careful inquiry, however, shows that this, most likely, formed a part of the strong wall of the old Fleet Prison. New Gate is gone, and we have no appearance of the wall above ground until we reach St. Martin's-le-

Grand, where, in the churchyard, and in Monkwell-street, in part of the Barber Surgeons' Hall, and in Cripplegate churchyard, there will be found extensive remains of the wall. The circular bastion here, which we have engraved, is in excellent preservation; and, in connection with the tower of the church in which Milton is buried, especially when the moon is in a right position, makes a rare picture. In Smith's etchings of old London antiquities there are views of the portions of the wall which were in existence in the lifetime of this artist; but, so far as we know, all these have been demolished, except some pieces along the line of what is now called London-wall, in a warehouse near Tower-hill, and a large part immediately adjoining what was a postern of the Tower. This locality has many historical associations, and it is to be hoped that relics of this kind which stand out of the way of needful improvements will be preserved with care.



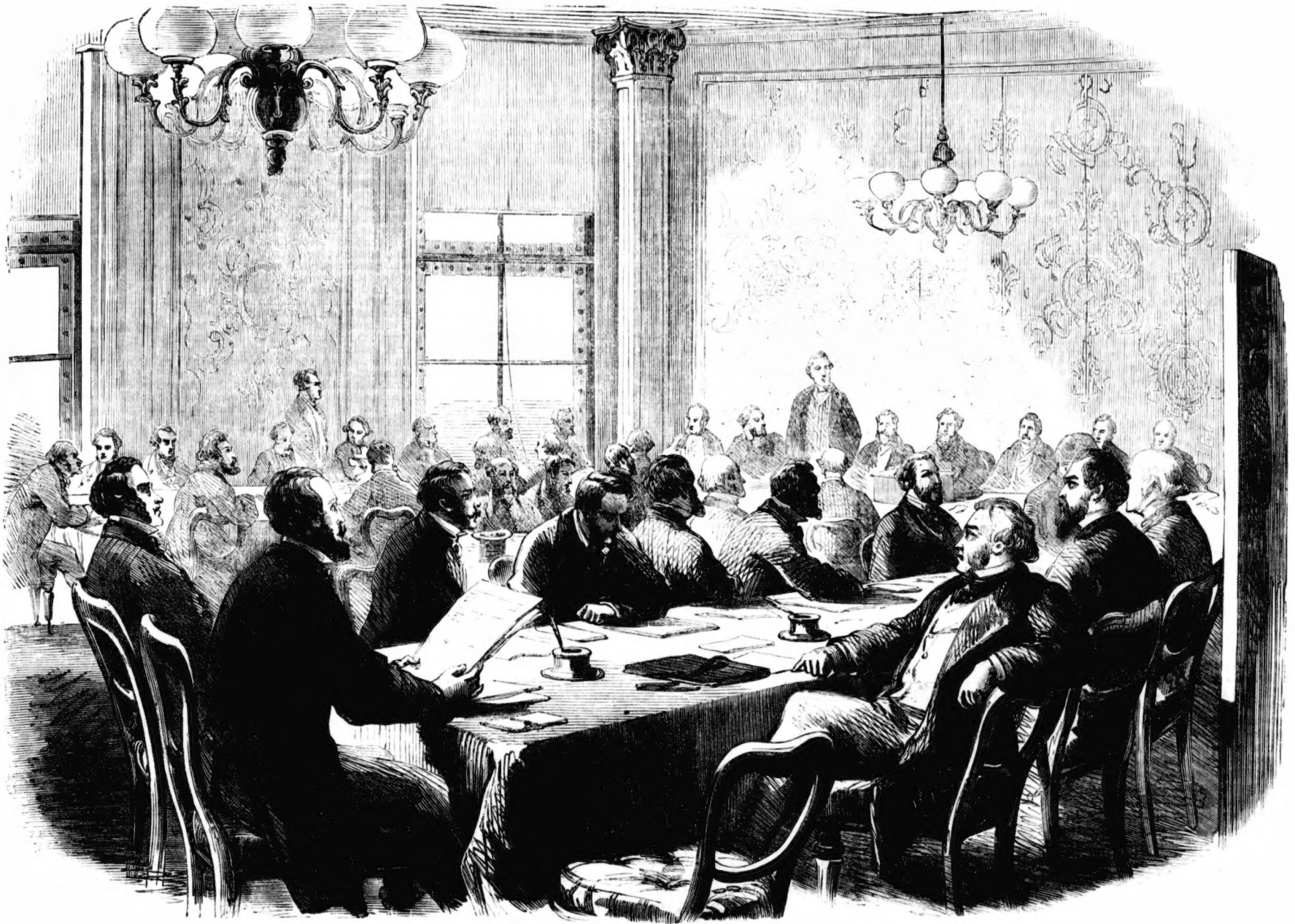
FRAGMENT OF LONDON-WALL, ST. MARTIN'S-COURT, LUDGATE-HILL.



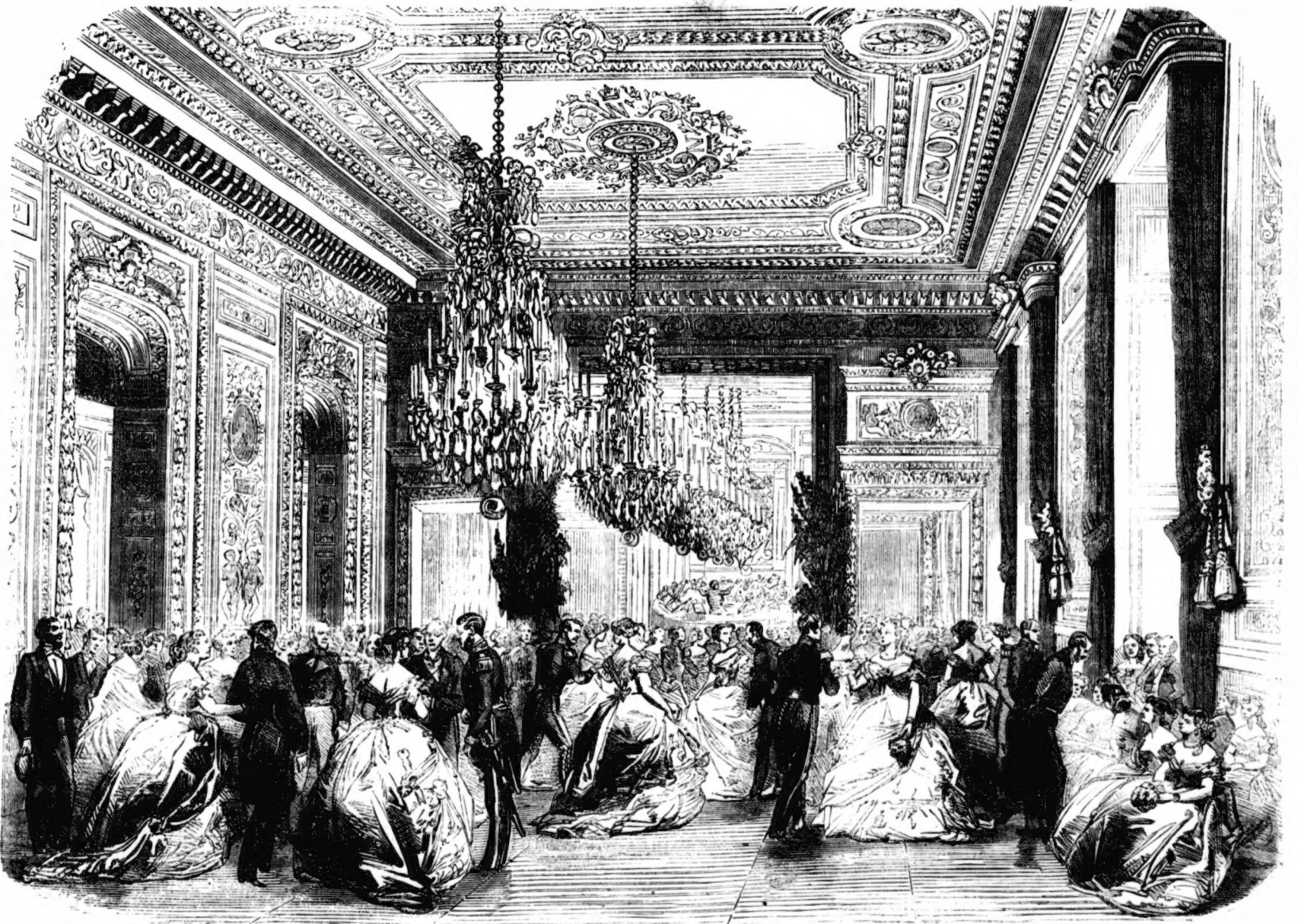
GROOVE FOR WORKING THE PORTCULLIS AT THE POSTERN, AT ALDERMANBURY.



PART OF THE LONDON WALL IN ST. MARTIN'S-COURT, LUDGATE-HILL.



CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES FROM THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, AT THE WESTMINSTER HOTEL.



BALL AT THE HOUSE OF THE MINISTER OF MARINE, PARIS.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 251.

EXTREMES MEET.

It is a strange sight to see Mr. Newdegate and Mr. Whalley running in couples. The men are so diverse. Mr. Newdegate is a staunch Conservative; Mr. Whalley is a Radical, and advocates "vote by ballot and a wide extension of the suffrage—that, by widening the basis of the Legislature, we may gain for our institutions increased respect at home and add weight to our influence abroad." Mr. Newdegate is a solid English country gentleman, one of the olden time, in all things except intemperance. He is fond of the sports of the field, sits on his horse as if he were to the manner born, and follows the chase with the eagerness of a Nimrod. But, nevertheless, he is a religious man; no fanatic, though, and no ascetic. We have heard it said that Mr. Newdegate belongs to the Evangelical School. We, however, doubt this. He is, we venture to think, of no school, but simply an earnest and sincere Churchman; and would repudiate any other name but this. Not a Low Churchman, and certainly not a High Churchman, according to the meaning of the term now. Modern High Church smacks too much of Popery for Mr. Newdegate. He is rather, perhaps, a High Churchman in the sense in which this designation was understood half a century ago. Mr. Whalley is not strictly an English country gentleman. Wales claims Mr. Whalley; and yet he must be of English extraction if it be true that he is descended from Edward Whalley, Old Noll's Master of Horse, and first cousin of John Hampden and Oliver. Moreover, Mr. Whalley is a railway man; is or was a director of several railways; and belongs to a world into which Mr. Newdegate never set his foot for a moment. Very different, too, in temperament, bearing, and all that we call character, are these two men. Mr. Newdegate is solid, serious, careful, painstaking, and discreet. He is very earnest, and when speaking upon the inroads of Popery says strong things; but he is, however, never personal, never offensive—is always a gentleman, in short. And so it has come to pass that he always secures a hearing, however unpopular and unpalatable his subject may be to the House, and all the members, even his Roman Catholic opponents, respect him. On the other hand, Mr. Whalley is wild, erratic, hurried, loose-tongued, and exceedingly indiscreet, and him nobody cares to hear. Further, somehow it has got to be believed that Whalley is not sincere—that he has merely taken up the anti-Popish business to gain popularity—and that really he cares nothing about it. It may be doubted, however, whether this estimate is correct. He is not sincere, as Mr. Newdegate is; but he believes after a manner; or, as Carlyle would say, he believes that he believes. The difference between the two men is, we should say, this: Mr. Newdegate's anti-Popish feeling is a profound conviction. Earnestly and seriously he believes that Popery has increased, is increasing, and ought to be stopped; and that it is his duty, his solemn mission, to lift up his testimony—in season and out of season, whether men hear or forbear—against Popery, and to rouse the people from their apathy, that the insidious encroachments of the monster may be stopped; or, as Burke (surely it was he) said, "To throw himself between the living and the dead, that the plague may be stayed." But Whalley's feeling on this subject appears to be a mere craze. At this point, then, and at no other, these two men meet. It is worthy of remark, though, that there is obviously little concert between the two. They are never seen together; they do not call each other "honourable friend;" and it is suspected that, whilst Whalley would be glad to make an alliance, offensive and defensive, with Newdegate, Newdegate fights shy of Whalley. Nor is this wonderful, for on every point, as we have shown, except one, these two are "wide as the poles asunder;" and how can two walk together except they be agreed?

MR. NEWDEGATE.

The House was very full, as times go, when Mr. Newdegate rose to move his Committee, and from first to last, from the beginning of his speech to the end, he was listened to with profound attention; indeed, the hon. member always gains the ear of the House, whatever he may have to say, and whenever he may rise. We have seen him get up in an important debate, long after midnight, when a great division was toward, and yet gain a hearing. He would be met with a hurricane of cries—a very tempest of yells—from all sides of the House, but his noble voice would rise above all; or if the storm were too fierce he would calmly wait till it subsided, and ultimately be sure to get a hearing. Something of this is owing to his voice and his admirable dramatic action, which is simply perfect; but more, we suspect, to the estimation in which he is held by the House. "It is a shame to put down Newdegate, he is so good," we once heard a young swell say who had been heading the storm. "Let him speak: he has too much good sense to speak long." Such is the force of character, reader, here as elsewhere. On Friday Mr. Newdegate spoke with all his accustomed force. His magnificent voice, which he knows so well how to manage, accompanied as it was and always is with that perfect action of his, seemed to charm the House; and, however much we might differ from his opinions, it was impossible not to listen to what he had to say. More than half the House disagreed with him, and yet the attention which he commanded was profound. "But, after all, there is not much in his speeches," our readers will probably say. "We have read his speeches, and to us it has always seemed that they are very poor." Yes; this is so. When we come quietly to analyse them, his facts appear to be questionable and his reasoning weak. Mr. Newdegate, in truth, has not a capacious nor a strong mind. He has, however, a strong imagination, and his imagination dominates his intellect. Such men are not uncommon, though they are not so common as they were. "Don Quixote" was written to ridicule the class; Mr. Newdegate, like the immortal Don, sees giants in windmills.

SPEAKING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Of Mr. Whalley's speech we need say but little. It was a distraction—inorganic, chaotic. He began sentences which he never completed. His facts were mere assertions; his arguments had no coherence; his manner was wild. Much of this, no doubt, was caused by the storm which the poor man had to confront. In such a tempest the calmest speaker would have found it difficult, if not impossible, to speak coherently. Moreover, the attacks upon Mr. Whalley have been reduced to a system, and are the most provoking that can be imagined. They are something new, and were invented, we fancy, on purpose to worry the honourable member. When he rises, especially if anyone else rise with him, there are loud cries for Whalley. "Whalley! Whalley!" resounds from every part of the house. This is intended to impress the honourable member with the notion that the House is anxious to hear him. Then, as soon as he opens his lips, or when he has uttered a few words, there comes a regular and, as it would seem, a concerted volley of "Hear, hear!" Whereupon the hon. gentleman pauses for a moment to let the applause subside. Again he begins a sentence, and once more a blast of cheers is hurled at him. Puzzled and bewildered, he looks round deprecatingly, as much as to say, "You shout 'Hear, hear!' why, then, do you not let me speak?" Whereupon there breaks forth a roar of laughter; and, that subsiding, nothing daunted, Mr. Whalley, perhaps, takes up a paper as if to read; and then we have cries of "Read, read!" mingled with loud and ever louder cacklings at the hon. member's bewilderment. And so the fight goes on. A few words from Mr. Whalley; a storm of shouts; Mr. Whalley stands silent, puzzled, and bewildered; a shout of laughter; again he begins, and again is met by a point-blank volley of cheers. We have known this sort of thing last half an hour. Now, it is clear that no man can marshal his sentences and arguments and keep them in parade line under such a fire as this. And, if Mr. Whalley were wise, he would not attempt to do it, but, seeing the temper of the House, would incontinently beat a retreat. But Mr. Whalley is not wise; and being, moreover, very courageous, and not wanting self-possession, he perseveres, and sometimes he wearies his opponents out, silences, in a measure, their fire, and gets clear marching-ground for a time; but when he arrives at his goal, his regiment (to keep up our figure)

of sentences and arguments present a sadly broken, shattered, and demoralised aspect. On this night Mr. Whalley was specially unfortunate. You see, it was before dinner, and the House was rather full; dinner-time, however, was not far off, and it had been resolved that a division should be pushed on before the members went to dine; and, lastly, there were present a goodly number of the class of men who seldom come but to divide, and are specially intolerant of all speaking which prevents a division. "But how do Mr. Whalley's speeches, under such circumstances, get reported?" Well, that is a mystery which has ever been insoluble to me. Reported at length they never are; and I can only suppose that a few broken sentences reach the gallery, and that the sagacity of the stenographers supply what is wanting and lick the whole into something like shape.

MR. SEELY.

"Some of our best speakers are to be found amongst the men who never speak." This dictum we heard uttered by an honourable member some years ago, when Mr. Sturt, who theretofore had never opened his lips, suddenly emerged from the mass of silent members and rattled out to the astonishment of everybody, a most telling speech. And within the last few days we have had another illustration of the truth of the saying. Mr. Seely, the member for Lincoln, has not been entirely mute since he appeared in the House in 1861, but he has seldom spoken, and his speeches were short and attracted no notice; but last week he broke silence with effect, and, in calm and easy flowing language, without attempt at oratorical effect, delivered one of the most searching and severe criticisms upon the cost of ships, dockyard accounts, and other cognate matters, which the Government have ever had to meet. To reply to him Mr. Childers was put up (Mr. Childers, the junior Lord of the Admiralty, who succeeded Mr. Stansfeld), and for a time he seemed to make out a case; but on Monday night Mr. Seely again returned to the charge, and with the same clearness and self-possession subjected the reply of Mr. Childers to a searching analysis. Which is right remains to be seen, as the phrase is; but will it ever be seen? The gods of old when offended retired behind a cloud; and our Admiralty, and indeed all other, officials do the same—retire behind a cloud of figures, whence it is very difficult to draw them. But if it can be done, quiet, persevering Mr. Seely, with his practical business habits and mercantile horror of all confusion in accounts, is clearly the man to do it.

THE MALTESE AGAIN.

On Tuesday night the House was itself again. It threw off its languor and appeared to be in earnest, if it was not really so. There was a large gathering of members. The storm birds were there—those members who never show themselves unless there are signs of a gale. The lobby, too, which has been so dull and empty, was quite lively. Country squires were there in abundance; and solid, square-built farmers were eagerly inquiring for their members; and all the galleries were full. The attraction was the long-promised debate upon the malt tax, promised by Commander-in-Chief Sir Fitzroy Kelly, who had pledged himself to assault the obnoxious tax and, if possible, carry it by storm. At the proper time Sir Fitzroy delivered his speech—and a very long speech it was. This merit it had, at least; and it bristled with statistics; and the speaker was very eloquent and very energetic. But, somehow, the speech fell flat—making little impression. Indeed, the younger members, and many of their seniors too, pronounced it a bore, and wandered out of the house into the lobbies, and chatted about horses, dogs, famous races, and other congenial matters, until Sir Fitzroy had finished his yarn, as this speech of his—which had so long been promised, got up with such care, and which he was delivering with such energy—was irreverently named. In truth, Sir Fitzroy is not an attractive speaker. He is awfully wordy, his arguments are far-fetched; and, though he labours hard to be earnest, he only succeeds in impressing his hearers that his passion may be a decent imitation—it is certainly not the "right tap."

The great event of the night was the appearance of Sir Bulwer Lytton once more upon the stage. For two, or it may be three, years the hon. Baronet has not opened his lips, has, indeed, made no set oration, since he hurled that famous philippic at the Whig Government when Lord John Russell withdrew his reform bill. Sir Bulwer does not often honour the House with his presence. His health is not very good; he does not hear very well, and we suspect that his study and his books are more attractive than our dull debates. Sir Bulwer's speech on this occasion was carefully got up; the language of it was perfect; the sentences were polished to a fault; painfully suggesting too much hard labour for so little result; for, with all his studying, writing, and re-writing, all his painful labor *lame*, Sir Bulwer never can succeed in being impressive. However good the matter of his speeches may be, his delivery of them ruins all. His action is somewhat more moderate and less uncouth than it used to be; but his voice, which is naturally, one would say, a very good voice, is so wretchedly mismanaged that it is very difficult to understand and painful to listen to him. Instead of sending out his words *ore rotundo*, he, by some process unintelligible to us, so mounds them that many of them come to our ears as mere inarticulate sounds. Pity that the speaker cannot better deliver what he takes so much pains to prepare!

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The County Courts Equitable Jurisdiction Bill was read a second time, after some opposition on the part of Lord St. Leonards, who contended that the judges of the county courts had not the time, the machinery, nor the qualifications—as the majority of them were common-law lawyers—to discharge the duties which would devolve upon them under the bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INSPECTION OF CONVENTS.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the existence and character of monastic or conventual societies or establishments in Great Britain, on the ground of the enormous and unprecedented increase of those institutions and the malpractices which are alleged to have taken place in several of them.

Mr. HENNESSY opposed the motion, and contended that the law was sufficiently effective to remedy any grievance of which complaint could be made.

After some debate, the motion was negatived by 106 to 79.

BRITISH KAFFRARIA BILL.

On the motion for the recommitment of the British Kaffraria Bill a brief discussion ensued, in which Mr. A. Mills, Mr. C. Fortescue, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Adderley, and Mr. Cardwell took part. The bill was recommitted, and the clauses agreed to.

MONDAY, MARCH 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MILITARY HOSPITALS.

The Earl of DALHOUSIE called attention to the condition of the military hospitals at Netley and Woolwich, and inquired whether the vote of £6000 was all that was intended to be applied to the erection of a landing-place at Netley, and whether the hospital at Woolwich was intended for a general military hospital, or only for the use of the garrison at Woolwich.

Earl DE GREY and RUPON replied that the sum asked for Netley Hospital was quite sufficient, as it was only intended to construct a pier of 200 yards, but, if necessary, a more extensive structure would be erected. With regard to Woolwich, it was intended for a general hospital, and would be conducted on the same principles as a general hospital in time of war.

Some observations followed from the Duke of Cambridge, the Earl of Ellenborough, Earl Granville, and the Earl of Longford, and the matter dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, replying to questions put by Lord Stanley, said that an inquiry had been instituted by the Lord Chancellor and the Commissioners of Patents into certain alleged irregularities in the accounts of the Patent Office, which had resulted in two reports from the gentlemen who had conducted that inquiry. Mr. Edmunds, the late clerk of the patents, complained that, as to a considerable portion of the matter in the

concluding report, which would involve a large amount of pecuniary charge, he had not had an opportunity of offering an answer in explanation, which he said he was now preparing. It would, therefore, be premature to produce the reports at this moment. If the conclusions arrived at by the gentlemen who had instituted the inquiry were correct, a very considerable sum remained to be accounted for by the officer referred to. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, it was thought that the case was not one in which it was expedient to institute any species of criminal proceeding; but it was the decided intention of the Government, unless further explanations should lead them to a different conclusion, to take civil proceedings for the recovery of the whole of the balance due from Mr. Edmunds.

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAYS.

Mr. BENTINCK moved a resolution that, "in consequence of the frequency and increasing number of accidents on railways, and the absence of any power in the executive Government to interfere for their better prevention, it is desirable that power should be vested by Act of Parliament in the Board of Trade, or in some other department of the Government, to institute an inquiry into the causes of any accidents which may occur on railways, and examine witnesses on oath; and that powers should be vested in such department to frame and issue regulations for the conduct of the traffic on railways for the safety and convenience of the public." He observed that railways had now monopolised the means of locomotion; that precautions against accidents, recommended by a Committee of the House, had not been adopted, and that, year after year, accidents on railways increased in number. These were sufficient grounds, in his opinion, for the interference of the House and the Government, which had at present no compulsory power in this matter, though a large proportion of railway accidents might be prevented by common and simple precautions. He noticed and answered some of the objections urged against Government interference, and asked the House not to be carried away by such suggestions.

Sir F. SMITH could not go the whole length of the resolution, which would throw upon the Government the responsibility which now rested upon the railway companies.

Mr. M. GIBSON said he thought the first part of the resolution unnecessary, as the present system of inquiry was successful in ascertaining the cause of the accident, and, with regard to the other portion, a Royal Commission was appointed, which would inquire into and report upon the subject, so it would be premature for the House to agree to the motion.

After further observations by Mr. Lefroy and Mr. R. Hodgson, the resolution was negatived.

SUPPLY.—THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply, when Lord C. PAGET moved the Navy Estimates. After a preliminary explanation of the form of the Estimates, he stated that the number of men proposed to be voted for the service of the year 1865-6 was 69,750, being a decrease, compared with the Estimate for last year, of 2200 men. The money Estimate was £10,392,224, that of last year being £10,708,651, a decrease in the gross expenditure of £316,000. The amount for wages, &c., was £295,006, showing a slight increase over the Estimate of last year. He proceeded to explain the cause of this increase, the reasons why a diminution of the number of seamen was proposed, and the details of various items in the other Estimates. He stated the number of armour-plated ships of all classes complete, or in such a forward state of construction that they would be ready by the close of the year; and, having explained what had been done, he gave particular details of what the Government proposed to do in the construction of vessels for our iron fleet. He entered very fully into vote 11, for new works, buildings, machinery, and repairs, specifying in what manner the Government proposed to deal with the recommendations of the Committee of last year. The amount of this vote was £527,985, showing a real increase over that of last year of £30,000—the nominal increase, including a transfer from other votes, being £53,000. He explained the intentions of the Government regarding the vote for the Malta Docks, consequent upon the visit of the Duke of Somerset, and the expenditure for a dock at the French Creek. In conclusion, he took notice of reports that the Navy was unpopular; that there was a difficulty in manning the Navy, and especially in obtaining continuous-service men, and stated facts which negatived these reports, and showed that men were attached to the service. He read returns of the crimes and punishments in the Navy (which he proposed to lay annually on the table), showing their diminution and the moral improvement of the service.

Sir J. PAKINGTON, after some general remarks upon the statement of Lord C. Paget, said he should not deal candidly with the Government if he did not state that, from information he had received, he was not free from apprehension as to the condition of our Navy. After the enormous sums which had been placed at the disposal of the Admiralty—upwards of £57,000,000 in five years—he had been told that at this moment we could not send an effective fleet to sea.

Several other hon. members having addressed the House, the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

COMMON LAW COURTS (FEES) AND LAW OF PARTNERSHIP.

The Common Law Courts (Fees) Bill was read a third time and passed. Mr. M. Gibson obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law of partnership.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CASE OF MR. EDMUNDS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR directed attention to the case of Mr. Leonard Edmunds, late Reading Clerk to their Lordship's house, and also the holder of two appointments in the office of patents, who has been reported to be a defaulter to the extent of several thousands of pounds, and who has already paid into the Treasury a portion of the sums alleged to be owing by him. The noble and learned Lord said that upon these circumstances coming to his knowledge he directed Mr. Edmunds to be informed that he should move for a Committee to inquire into the matter. At the request, of Mr. Edmunds he refrained from doing so for a few days, and upon the day appointed for mentioning the subject Mr. Edmunds presented a petition to the House resigning his office and praying for a pension. The petition was referred in the usual way to a Committee; but he (the Lord Chancellor) had not communicated to that Committee the information he possessed in reference to the transactions at the Patent Office, because the law officers of the Crown were of opinion that there was no ground for instituting criminal proceedings. Moreover, the whole of the information which led to the discovery of the defalcations had been obtained from the confession of that person himself. With respect to the two posts connected with the Patent Office, vacated by Mr. Edmunds, the Prime Minister had appointed a relative of his (the Lord Chancellor's) Clerk of the Patents; but the clerkship to the Patent Commissioners would not be filled up until the state of that office had been considered. In conclusion, the noble and learned Lord moved for a Committee of Inquiry into the whole case.

The Earl of DERBY said he understood that Mr. Edmunds, instead of handing over the fees he received to the Treasury, had placed them in a deposit bank, and received the interest on them, and that when the claim was made he returned the whole sum on deposit. He (Lord Derby) thought there had been haste in reference to the resignation of Mr. Edmunds as Reading Clerk. He had heard that before the meeting of Parliament the Lord Chancellor had told Mr. Edmunds that if he did not resign he should bring the whole matter before the House; but that if he did resign he would not do so, and would place no obstacle in the way of his obtaining a pension.

The LORD CHANCELLOR declared that this story was wholly without foundation.

The Earl of DERBY was bound to accept this denial. The matter would, however, be brought before the Committee. He complained that the whole matter had not been laid before the House prior to the granting of a pension. There were other rumours connected with Mr. Edmunds involving persons holding high office, but into these he would not go at present.

After some further discussion, the Committee was appointed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE MALT TAX.

Sir F. KELLY moved, "That in any future remission of indirect taxation this House should take into consideration the taxation on malt, with a view to its early reduction and ultimate repeal." He had no wish to stop the reduction of the income tax, or to place fresh taxes on articles of general use, in order that the malt duty might be repealed. But his object was to put forward the claims of those who now suffered under the malt tax in order that relief might be afforded to them when the financial condition of the country would allow it. He supported his claim on free-trade principles. Sir R. Peel had said that, if they had free trade in corn, it must be extended to agriculture, and the farmers must be allowed to make and consume their own malt. He proceeded to show that the malt duty raised the price of beer considerably without bringing a corresponding sum to the revenue of the country. He alluded to the reductions of duty on corn, pepper, tea, and other things; and contended that malt had as good a claim as any of them. He believed, if the duty were abolished, the people would be able to brew beer for themselves, which they might do for 4d. a gallon, and this would tend materially to lessen the intemperance in the country. The cultivators of land had sustained great injury from legislation, and this measure should be passed in justice to them.

Sir E. B. LYTTON seconded the motion, and Mr. NEATE moved, as an amendment, that considering the immunities from taxation now enjoyed by the owners and occupiers of land, they were not entitled to any special consideration on account of the pecuniary pressure of the malt tax; and that if, on other grounds, that tax should be reduced or abolished, compensation to the revenue should be sought in the first instance, by withdrawing from landed property the advantage it now had over other property in the shape of total exemption from probate duty and partial exemption from succession duty and income tax.

The debate was continued by Mr. Du Cane, Mr. Morritt, and Colonel Bartleet, who supported the motion; and by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Hardcastle, who opposed it.

Mr. M. GIBSON contended that all the experiments which had been made showed that unmalted barley was better for cattle than malt. At considerable length he argued that the malt tax was not oppressive, and that it had fewer claims for reduction than many other items of revenue. He urged

the House not to pass the resolution, which would condemn a large amount of taxation raised without great pressure on the people.

Mr. HANLEY supported the motion, and demanded the reduction of the malt tax as simple justice to the farmer.

Mr. Neate withdrew his amendment, and Mr. Harcastle moved the previous question.

On a division Sir F. Kelly's motion was negatived by 251 votes to 171.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

RIVER WATERS PROTECTION BILL.

Lord R. MONTAGU moved the second reading of the River Waters Protection Bill. He wished the bill to be sent to a Select Committee, that it might be fully examined. He pointed out at considerable length the manner in which many of the rivers and streams in this country are poisoned by the sewage of towns and the refuse of manufactories being poured into them. This killed the fish and prevented the water being fit for drinking purposes. The beds of the rivers had, in many cases, been raised by the rubbish thrown into them. In London we were drinking the sewage of 800,000 people, and there was no way of preventing this except by turning the sewage on to the land. Filtration and decolorisation were out of the question. They had been tried, and had failed. When the sewage was thrown on the land, however, it was effectually filtered and deodorised, and it was the evidence of all competent witnesses that this could be done without injury to the health of the people. Moreover, when thrown upon the land it increased its fertility very largely; and, indeed, upon the application of sewage as a manure rested the continued productiveness of the land. The bill proposed to give powers to deal with the pollution of rivers to watershed boards, which should have jurisdiction over the whole of the areas which they represented, and they would have powers to raise money for the purposes of the Act similar to those now possessed by the Metropolitan Board of Works. He moved the second reading of the bill.

Sir G. GREY did not believe that the evils now existing from the pouring of the sewage into the rivers were so great as had been represented; but he believed that when the country was convinced of the value of sewage as a manure there would be much less difficulty in dealing with the question than existed at present. He objected to the bill, because it placed an almost unlimited power in the hands of inspectors, and gave the most extensive and important powers to the protection boards. He believed it would involve almost every district in large expense. He hoped the bill would not be pressed to a second reading.

After some discussion, the bill was withdrawn.

SEWAGE UTILISATION BILL.

On the motion for the second reading of this bill, Sir G. GREY urged that it should be referred to a Select Committee.

Lord R. MONTAGU assented; and, after a few words from Mr. F. Powell, the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be referred to a Select Committee.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The LORD CHANCELLOR introduced a bill, which he considered very important. The Committee sitting to inquire into the bankruptcy laws would not, he feared, bring in their report this year. He wished to make an amendment in the law by this bill, which, he believed, would be in perfect harmony with the coming report. The bill proposed the abolition of imprisonment for debt, and that no discharge shall be made to protect the future property of the bankrupt, unless he shall have paid 5s. in the pound, or unless he obtain the assent to his discharge of four or five sixths of his creditors.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BRAZIL.

Mr. WHITE asked whether, with a view to establish friendly relations with Brazil, it was the intention of her Majesty's Government to repeal the Act known as the "Aberdeen Act."

Lord PALMERSTON said it was not the intention of the Government to do so; for it believed that the Brazilian Government, with the best intentions, would not be able to prevent a revival of the slave trade. He might, however, state that negotiations were still going on, through the intervention of the Portuguese Government, to re-establish diplomatic relations between her Majesty's Government and that of the Emperor of Brazil.

In reply to Mr. Maguire, Lord PALMERSTON stated that the British Minister had remonstrated against the assumed intention of the Brazilian Admiral and the commander of the insurgent forces to bombard Montevideo, and had received an assurance that the property of British and foreign subjects should be respected as far as possible. He was sorry to say that war was not carried on in that part of the world on principles congenial to the feelings of Europe; but no interference had been undertaken by her Majesty's Government, except earnest representations to carry on the war with as little injury to private property as possible.

AMERICA.

Lord R. CECIL asked whether any demands had been received by the Foreign Office from the American Government or the American Ambassador demanding compensation for losses occasioned to American citizens by the Alabama or other vessels commissioned by the Government of the Confederate States.

Mr. LAYARD was understood to say that there had been no demands of the kind.

NAVY ESTIMATES.

After considerable discussion, a vote for 69,750 seamen, marines, &c., for service in the Royal Navy, was agreed to.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1865.

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAYS.

THE subject of railway accidents is interesting to everyone, because everyone nowadays travels more or less on railways. Sydney Smith was right, perhaps, when he said that proper precautions against accidents would never be taken till a bishop or two had been killed; but, valuable as the lives of bishops may be beyond those of other people, we cannot afford to wait till the event indicated by the reverend wit shall occur, before every endeavour has been made to ensure the safety of ordinary mortals while travelling on what are now almost the sole highways of the country. During the past year the number of these accidents—as, for lack of a more accurate phrase, we are in the habit of calling them—has considerably increased, and it therefore is full time that some more effective measures should be taken to avert such terrible calamities. It may still be true that the percentage of casualties on railways is smaller in proportion to the number of travellers than were those which occurred in the old coaching days. But this is simply saying what everybody knows, that railways supply a better means of locomotion than stage coaches did. The public are entitled to

the full benefit of the improvement embodied in the railway system, and ought not to be content to encounter any amount of danger, let its relative degree be what it may, that human foresight and precaution can avert.

Consequently, Mr. Bentinck was not without sufficient justification in bringing the subject of accidents on railways before the House of Commons the other night. We think he made a mistake, however, when he proposed to empower Government to draw up regulations for the conduct of traffic on railways. It would be next to impossible to compile any general code of regulations which would be applicable to all lines, and to be able to legislate for each, would involve the necessity of Government officials being as thoroughly conversant with the working of every individual line as the present railway managers are. To accomplish this, a Government superintendent would have to be attached to each of the railways in the three kingdoms, and the question would at once arise, by whom ought his services to be paid? It would not be reasonable to throw this cost on the companies, which would thus be made to pay a public official over whom they had no control for performing the duties of traffic managers, a class of functionaries whom they already employ and compensate. The salaries of the Government superintendents would have to be paid by the public, and the amount of expense to the nation to which this would lead need not be pointed out. There would, besides, be introduced a double system of management, and consequently divided responsibility, and, whoever was to blame for an accident, Government interference and the Government official would be sure to be saddled with the criminality. No; divided responsibility will not do. Railway companies and their directors have undertaken the internal carrying trade of the country with a full sense of the magnitude of the task—perfectly aware of their responsibilities, and prepared to incur these in consideration of the profits likely to accrue; and they must be held to the terms of their bargain.

Railway accidents generally arise from three or four direct causes, which we think may all be traced to one indirect cause. There is either some insufficiency in the rolling stock or permanent way; the signals are bad or are out of order; the servants of the company are inefficient or overworked; a greater amount of traffic is undertaken than can be conveniently and safely performed; or trains are badly timed and punctuality is not sufficiently attended to. These are ordinarily the direct causes to which most accidents can be traced. And it needs little reflection to perceive that the indirect cause of all these is parsimony on the part of directors; and that, consequently, the directors and their traffic managers are the parties really to blame when a railway catastrophe occurs. Upon them, then, and not upon underpaid and overtasked signalmen, engine-drivers, and guards should the consequences be visited. If a few railway directors and traffic managers were prosecuted, and, on conviction of having caused an accident by starving the working of the line, were subjected to imprisonment or penal servitude, according to the degree of their culpability, more would be done, we verily believe, to check the occurrence of railway casualties than the killing of any number even of bishops. The greed of dividends is the real source of the mischief, and those who pander to that greed should be made to bear the punishment. It is in vain to punish the neglect, or incompetence, or confusion of mind of signalmen, engine-drivers, and porters, who are made to toil from twelve to sixteen hours out of the twenty-four for wages of from a pound to thirty shillings a week, and let their superiors escape whose conduct is the true cause of accidents by under-paying their servants and keeping the lines and plant in an inefficient state. The law as it stands is, we believe, strong enough to prevent all preventable accidents, which includes the greater number of those which occur. It only requires to be enforced in a determined way and against the right parties; and the duty of seeing that this is done rests with our public legal functionaries, and, in a secondary degree, with the public themselves. Let each one of the travelling public do his duty in this respect; let there be no glossing over of faults and making of things pleasant for parties in high authority on our railways; let punishment be visited where blame really rests, and we feel assured that railway travelling will speedily become a much safer thing than it at present is.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, it is asserted in some Irish journals, will pay a visit to Ireland in the course of the present year.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, who has just been named a Knight Grand Cross of the Bath, will formally open the main-drainage works on the 4th proximo. His Royal Highness will also open the Dublin Exhibition in May next.

THE PRINCE OF WALES held a Levée at St. James's Palace on Wednesday, which was very numerously attended.

M. GUIZOT was on Wednesday elected to the Presbyterian Council of Paris by a small majority over his opponent, M. Barbezat.

THE TRAMWAYS which have hitherto occupied the centre of the road of Westminster Bridge are being removed, to be reconstructed on each side the road, near the footways. Their removal to the sides of the road has been rendered necessary to afford relief to the traffic.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE has written to the Queen and the Sovereigns of Europe, proposing that, without distinction of creed, all shall join at once for the purpose of effecting a suitable restoration of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem, which is now in a state of utter disrepair.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA is expected at Berlin in April or May. His Majesty will join the Empress at Nice, and consult some eminent physicians on the health of his son and heir. It is presumed in Prussia that the Czarowitch will be recommended to spend another winter in a southern climate.

THE KING OF SWEDEN has invited the Prince of Wales and Prince Napoleon to be present at the military camp of the Swedish troops which will be formed at the latter end of the summer.

M. DE MONTMOLON, lately French Ambassador in Mexico, has been transferred to the Embassy in Washington.

THE REV. WILLIAM L. THORNTON, the recently-elected President of the Wesleyan Conference, died suddenly on Sunday morning last.

A TREATY OF COMMERCE between France and the Hanse Towns has been signed.

A CHINESE GIANT (7 ft. 2 in.) is about to visit England.

TWENTY STEAM BOILERS exist in the basement of the Westminster Palace, which have not been tested for a dozen years.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY has given the usual notice that pictures and sculpture for exhibition must be sent in by Tuesday, the 4th of April.

THE UPPER HOUSE OF THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT has decided by 45 to 15 votes in favour of the confederation scheme.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has decided on the gradual disbandment of the Foreign Legion in Algeria.

AT ALCALA, SPAIN, a man condemned to death for murder starved himself to death after twelve days' abstinence from food.

Mr. SENIOR, one of the Irish Poor-Law Commissioners, was killed on Tuesday on the Irish Midland Railway. He persisted in crossing the line when a train was coming up, in spite of all remonstrances.

AN ORGANISATION called the Fenian Sisterhood—an auxiliary to the Fenian Brotherhood—has been established in New York.

THE AGINCOURT, armour-plated frigate, now being built for Government by Messrs. Laird, at Birkenhead, will be launched at the end of the month; probably the 28th. As she is built in a graving-dock, she will be rather floated than launched.

A LADY, who declined to give any name, has paid into the hands of Mr. Edward Masterman, treasurer to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn-road, the handsome donation of £1000 towards the funds of that charity.

THE NUMBER OF MALT-HOUSES entered to make malt to be used in feeding animals since the passing of the Act of last Session, is twenty-eight. The number of bushels of malt made is 52,464, and 39,883 bushels of mixed malt have been sent out. Of the malt-houses above referred to eleven have since been closed.

A BLACKBIRD belonging to the gatekeeper of the county prison, Stirling, flew away in June last, and was not again seen until one day during the late snowstorm, when it appeared at the prison and re-entered its cage.

Mr. H. BERKELEY, M.P., has resigned the chairmanship of the Ballot Society, in consequence of a difference of opinion between himself and the committee as to the utility, under present circumstances, of continuing his annual motion on the ballot.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH, having done a good deal to set Paris architecturally in order, is now turning his attention to Lyons. He has written a letter to the Minister of the Interior recommending that several works of ornamentation and public utility should be undertaken in the city of the Rhône.

PELIZZONI, who was under sentence of death for the murder on Saffron-hill, has been respited during her Majesty's pleasure. It is expected that a free pardon will be granted to him.

A PROPOSITION has been made in London to celebrate the completion of fifty years of peace between England and France by a banquet to which distinguished French noblemen and gentlemen shall be invited. It is intended to hold the banquet in June next.

THE KING OF BAVARIA has sent to Baron Liebig an autograph letter, in which his Majesty thanks the Baron for declining, in the most self-sacrificing manner, an invitation to accept a position offered him at the Berlin University. Accompanying the letter is the cross of Commander in the Order of Merit of Holy St. Michael.

A STRONG RECOMMENDATION has been made from the proper quarter in Scotland to the authorities in London that Blackness Castle should be converted into a powder magazine for the supply of the whole of Scotland.

LORD REDESDALE and EARL GROSVENOR are, we understand, appointed executors to the will of the late Duke of Northumberland, which is dated as far back as 1848. The Dowager Duchess Eleanor is to have Stanwick Park, Yorkshire, and the late Duke's house in Whitehall-gardens, for life, and the ample provision under her marriage settlement.

SOME FRAGMENTS OF SHELLS were recently found in digging for a new cemetery at Macclesfield, and the labourers, in order to supply the demand of eager geologists, imported a quantity from Liverpool and Southampton; they also constructed a fossil which thoroughly deceived the savans.

IRELAND still supports 184 souls to every square mile, France only 178. Spain supports only 80 souls to the square mile, Austria only 148, Prussia only 172, Bavaria only 161, Sweden and Norway only 19, European Russia 32. Only Italy, England, Holland, and Belgium are more thickly populated than Ireland.

THE BOARD OF TRADE TABLES FOR JANUARY show that the value of the exports during that month was £10,489,339, against £10,413,586 in January, 1864, and £8,045,155 in the corresponding month of 1863. The imports of bullion and specie during the month were £1,415,026, against an export of £1,225,287.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has established recruiting depôts in all the large islands of the Greek Archipelago, with the view of facilitating the enlistment of Greek subjects for service in the Russian army. Large bounties and other inducements are offered to recruits, who are provided with a free passage to Odessa.

THE GREAT PETROLEUM FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.

ON the 8th ult. there occurred, in the city of Philadelphia, one of the most terrible conflagrations which have ever occurred in America, fruitful as that continent is in great fires, as it is of other events on a huge scale of magnitude. This was the destruction of a large petroleum or rock-oil warehouse and the tenements adjoining it. Ninth-street, below Washington-street, in the Quaker city, is lined principally with three-story brick dwellings that are occupied mainly by respectable families of limited means. The first street below Washington-street is Ellsworth, and the next is Federal, both of which streets had, in that vicinity, about the same class of dwellings upon them as those upon Ninth-street. On the southwest corner of Ninth and Washington streets there was a coal-yard, and immediately west of this, upon Washington-street, was an open lot, upon which Blackburn and Co. had between 2000 and 3000 barrels of rock-oil stored on account of various owners. On the evening of the 8th ult., at about half-past two o'clock, a fire broke out among this oil, and the flames spread through the greater part of it with almost as much rapidity as though it had been gunpowder. About 2000 barrels of the inflammable material were soon ablaze, and sending up into the sky a huge column of flame. The families in the neighbourhood sprang from their beds, and, without stopping to secure even a single article of clothing, rushed into the streets, which were covered with snow and slush. Those who were most prompt to escape from their threatened homes got off with their lives; but those nearest the spot where the conflagration first commenced, and who were not prompt to escape from their houses, were met by a terrible scene. The blazing oil poured over into Ninth-street and down to Federal-street, filling the street with a lake of fire and igniting the houses upon both sides of Ninth-street, for two squares, and carrying devastation into Washington, Ellsworth, and Federal streets, both above and below Ninth-street. An eye-witness, who was upon the spot when the oil poured out into the street, describes the fierce body of flame as resembling a screw in its progress. It first whirled up Ninth-street, and then the fiery torrent rushed down the street for a distance of two squares, and then back again at the caprice of the wind, destroying all living things that came in its way, burning dwellings and their contents as though they were so much straw, and even splitting into fragments the paving-stones in the street with the intense heat. Fully five squares of houses, had they been placed in a row, were on fire at once, and the scene was one to make the stoutest heart quail. People escaping from their blazing homes with no covering but their night-clothes; parents seeking for their children, and terrified little ones looking for safety in the horrid turmoil, were all dreadful enough, but there were still more terrible scenes witnessed. Men, women, and children were literally roasted alive in the streets, within sight of thousands of terror-stricken spectators, impotent to save. Of one family, consisting of seven persons, but one, the head, escaped; and this survivor was not at last accounts likely to recover from his fearful injuries. The members of this family attempted to escape from their burning dwelling through the rear of the house, but the flames were even fiercer in that direction than in front. Driven forth by the devouring element, they stepped into the street only to find themselves ankle-deep in a stream of liquid fire! One of these persons immediately fell, dropping her infant into the awful torrent. A fireman, named Fleetwood, made an effort to save her, but he also was entrapped and destroyed. One other family, consisting of eleven persons, is known to have perished; not one of these unfortunates escaped from their dwelling. Besides these an unknown man, in attempting to cross the street in advance of the stream of burning oil, slipped in the half-melted snow, rolled into the gutter, and was then overtaken by the flaming torrent and burned to a cinder. Nearly every house from Washington-street to Federal-street, a distance of two

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE House of Commons is said to be omnipotent, and specially so over all financial matters; but there is one little preserve into which the House of Commons has never been privileged to enter. The House of Commons annually votes the salaries of the public servants in all the departments except one—to wit, the House of Lords. My Lords pay the salaries of their officials out of the fee fund, and render no account to the House of Commons. When, however, the fee fund is not sufficient, application is made to the Lower House for the balance required. Some years ago the House of Commons used to do the same; but this was all changed in 1847, I think, and since then the fees have been paid into the Treasury, and the salaries and other expenses voted by the House in the usual way. Application was made to my Lords to allow the same reform to be carried out in the Upper House, but my Lords refused. Here, then, is a small preserve—a sort of peculiar *imperium in imperio*—into which the guardians of the public purse cannot enter. My Lords still continue to tax the public and to spend the revenue without permission or control of the House of Commons. The House of Commons has, therefore, no power in the matter of Mr. Edmunds's pension. If Mr. Edmunds were an officer of its own, or of any other department of the State, the House of Commons, with or without the consent of the Government, could refuse the pension; but in this case it can do nothing effectively. It may bark, but it cannot bite. It may pass resolutions, but it cannot get them obeyed. When my Lords ask for a balance to make up a deficiency in the fee fund, the House of Commons can, of course, refuse it; but no balance was asked for last year, and none will be wanted this year. The private business has been so large in amount that my Lords have a considerable balance in hand. Time will come, though, when the balance will be exhausted, and then will be the House of Commons' "opportunity;" and if it does its duty, it will return answer to any application for money in this manner:—"The House of Lords is respectfully informed that it is not constitutional to vote money in this way. The House of Lords must pay its fees into the Treasury, due account being rendered therewith; and it must also, like all other public departments, submit to the House of Commons estimate in detail of moneys required for salaries, &c., before the said House can proceed to vote supply."

But the Edmunds case is to be investigated. The House of Lords itself has taken the matter up, and has appointed a Committee, which will no doubt do its duty, and report duly the result of its investigations. My Lord Chancellor seems to have successfully defended himself against the charge of putting Mr. Edmunds under the screw to extort from him his resignation; and from the other charge, that, in order to induce Mr. Edmunds to resign, he (the Lord Chancellor) promised to use his influence to get Mr. Edmunds a pension of £800 a year. I say, seems to have cleared himself; but I decide provisionally upon the noble Lord's *ex parte* statement. But, however that may be, the noble Lord will find it difficult to clear himself before the bar of public opinion of glaring nepotism. When Mr. Edmunds resigned his office in the Patent Office, the learned Lord immediately got his son-in-law appointed; when Mr. Edmunds resigned his office in the Lords, the learned Lord promptly appointed his son. No investigation or explanation can alter these facts.

But what is the meaning of the insinuation that there was something strange in the appointment of Mr. Edmunds to the clerkship of the Patents? Lord Derby alluded to it, and the *Times* has re-echoed the rumour. Well, at present I have not got to the bottom of this matter; but thus much I have gathered:—Mr. Edmunds was appointed to the office by Lord Brougham in 1833; but it was arranged that, though Mr. Edmunds was to hold the office and perform its duties, the salary, or the greater part of it, was not to be received by him. Who was to have it—or, who Rumour says was to have it—I, having no wish to involve you in an action for libel, would rather not reveal. It will all come out, no doubt, before that Committee of the Lords which has been appointed, and your readers must patiently wait for its report. If what I have heard be true, the story is a strange one; and more than this I must not put upon paper. Let us hope that an explanation may rebut the charge which is freely whispered against certain persons whose character one would be sorry to see lowered in public esteem.

There is to be a tough battle in a committee-room of the House of Commons over the London sewage. Who is to have this wonder-working sewage which for long years we have been in the habit of throwing into the river as a thing of no value? This is the question. Messrs. Napier and Hope have a bill before the House to enable them to take it, and by means of conduits to deliver to the farmers in the Hundreds of Essex as much of it as they may require, and to pour the surplus on to Maplin Sands, &c., and thereby reclaim these sands and transmute them into fertile fields. This scheme is sanctioned by the Metropolitan Board of Works. But, lo! at this juncture the London Corporation steps to the front and shouts: "You have our sewage! No! we will have it; why, it is worth millions." Then there is another party, represented by Mr. Ellis, who has his little scheme; and so there will be a triangular battle unless the London Corporation and Mr. Ellis should form an alliance. At all events, there will be a stern fight; and all I have to say is, may the best man win. Meanwhile, if my readers wish to know what Messrs. Napier and Hope's scheme is, let them go to Stanford's, at Charing-cross, and purchase a remarkably well-written and able pamphlet, entitled the "Agricultural Value of the Sewage of London Examined." Baron Liebig is to be examined before this Committee, and I would warn him to go well armed, or he will soon wish himself in a London sewer amongst the rats rather than in a committee-room amongst the lawyers.

Those who admire Doré's illustrations—and who does not?—will be glad to hear that we are to have more of them. When "Don Quixote" is published, Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin meditate the production of Dante's "Inferno" in the same cheap form. I have not heard what translation they will adopt. Mr. Beeton is also going to give us a cheap edition of Doré's illustrations to the fairy tales of Perrault—"Hop-o'-my-Thumb," "The Sleeping Beauty," and a lot of old friends—the letterpress in rhyme being supplied by Mr. Hood.

We are having again, after a long interval, real comic drawing in *Punch*. The artist is Mr. C. H. Bennett, whose reputation as a humorous artist is so wide and so long established that it is strange that "our facetious contemporary" had not long ago secured his services. The "policeman's hat" cuts and the initials to the essence of Parliament are his, and exceedingly good they are. One of the latter, Glads on charming the railway snakes, was really capital. You could not make up your mind whether they were trains made to look like snakes or snakes made to look like trains, so happy was the combination of the two. With Mr. Bennett's fun and the pretty girls drawn by Messrs. Du Maurier and Paul Gray, we may hope to find *Punch* picking up a bit.

I send you a letter said to have been lately received by Louis Napoleon, soliciting an appointment to a tobacconist's shop:—

Sire,—I received, under your dear uncle, two mortal wounds, which, since the age of fifty, have been the ornament and happiness of my life. If these two titles appear to your Majesty to be susceptible of a tobacconist's shop (*bureau de tabac*) my hopes and my wife will be at their highest pitch. Sire, send a line in reply, if you please, &c.

This reminds me of another letter, also addressed to the Emperor, which began:—

Sire,—I received, under your late uncle, two mortal wounds—one at Wagram, the other in the leg.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Princess, again honoured the ADELPHI THEATRE with their presence on Wednesday evening. The piece which his Royal Highness had commanded was Mr. John Hollingshead's farce of "The Birthplace of Podgers," and I understand that Mr. Toole was the artist who was honoured by the Royal desire to witness the performance. Certainly the name of Sir John Lawrence Toole will be found in the Baronetage of 1870; and, who knows? after the actors, at the distance befitting their inferior calling, perhaps even the authors may receive the honour (?) of knighthood.

While on the subject of the Adelphi, I have to mention the revival of Sheridan Knowles's play of "The Love Chase." Of the play nothing need be said, and of the acting I should prefer speaking after a second visit. On the first night the house was so crammed, and the audience so enthusiastic, even for a first-night's audience, and the theatre was so hot, that I was dazed, and unable to exercise my critical and analytical faculties with full freedom. So, for the present, I will only say that the revival was successful beyond measure, and postpone the details of the performance until next week. Miss Bateman reappeared on Tuesday to a house so crammed that I was unable to obtain admission. As on the night of "The Love Chase," the enthusiasm was tremendous.

Mr. Tom Taylor's new and original play of "Settling Day" was produced at the OLYMPIC on Saturday last. The plot of this "Story of the Time" is highly ingenious, probable, and interesting, as the reader will see from the following brief outline:—Messrs. Markland and Meiklam are partners in a West-End bank. Markland is young, generous, and impulsive. Meiklam is past middle-age, reckless, scheming, and hypocritical. During Markland's honeymoon tour, which has lasted over six months, Meiklam has involved the firm to a large amount. Stoppage of payment is imminent, unless money be immediately found. Meiklam proposes to raise it upon securities deposited in the bank by Mr. Harrington, a young man of fortune betrothed to Markland's wife's sister. Markland refuses his consent to the fraud, but in his absence Meiklam takes the securities from their box. Frank Meiklam—a nephew of the rascally partner—a compound of cad, roué, betting-man, and loafer—robs his uncle, who has kept a double set of books, of his private account-book, and, armed with this evidence, boldly proposes for the hand of Miss Hargrave, Mrs. Markland's sister. The designs of the Meiklams, uncle and nephew, are frustrated by one Rocket, a promoter of joint-stock companies, and a Mr. Molesworth, an honest, straightforward attorney. Mr. Frank has to seek society more congenial to him than that of ladies and gentlemen; and Meiklam carries his white hair, black schemes, and air of repressed piety to Australia, where, it is to be hoped, bushrangers and natives inflict their worst upon him. It is impossible in the space at my disposal to do justice to the many admirable details, which, redolent of modern West-End and City life, give vitality to the drama. I must, therefore, content myself by merely noticing the very powerful female interest of the piece. Mrs. Markland is all a wife should be, and Miss Hargrave a pattern for what an expectant bride ought to be; and though the same remarks will not apply to Mrs. Vernon, she is a character equally true to nature. Markland and Meiklam are admirably contrasted; and the same remark will apply to all the dramatic personæ; the fast, would-be "swell" is an excellent foil for young Harrington, the perfect gentleman; and Rocket, the inventor of a thousand wild schemes for joint-stock companies (limited), is capital balanced by the cautious, steady family attorney. The severe business air of the incidents and dialogue is relieved by the tenderness of the young bride and her sister; and Mrs. Vernon—who has been disappointed matrimonially, has no turn for religion, and so amuses herself with business—is the connecting link between the drawing-room and the broker's office. "Settling Day" is called a Story of the Time; but it might be called a Story of Time, for the unities are wonderfully preserved. The action of the whole play, which is in five acts, occurs in one day. The first act takes place in Mrs. Markland's drawing-room, as I should presume, between noon and one o'clock p.m.; the second act is at a stockbroker's office, at about two; the third in the Bank Parlour, just before four; and the fourth and fifth at Markland's villa on the Thames, at midnight and after. The dialogue, though sometimes strained, is terse, crisp, and pointed. *Per contra*, the play is too long. The action of the fourth and fifth acts might easily be "welded;" and, indeed, after the third act, which is excellently constructed and highly dramatic, the interest flags. It is easy to be too elaborate and to "overlay" a situation. As an instance of this may be pointed out the somewhat ludicrous effect of the ball-room party dancing in from opposite sides when the hostess, agonised by the supposition of her husband's suicide, has fainted. The actual is always to an extent grotesque, particularly on the stage side of the footlights. As a specimen of the art of modern acting, "Settling Day" may be considered a great success. Mr. Horace Wigan, as the fraudulent partner, was the most reasoning of rascals—the quietest, urbanest, and most logical of swindlers; and Mr. Neville, as the impulsive man of honour, surrounded by snares and temptations, played excellently. Mr. Vincent was a very knowing and very dressy "cad," and Mr. Coghlan unobtrusive and gentleman-like as a model young Oxonian. The happy wretched Rocket, alternately sad and sanguine, found a clever exponent in Mr. Robert Soutar; and Mr. Maclean, as the "slow" attorney, played with equal intelligence. The old and young stockbroker, mere sketches in themselves, were well personated by Messrs. Evans and Cooper; and the same may be said of Mr. Rivers, as their clerk. There is more talent in the proper rendering of minor characters than auditors are aware of; and the confidential clerk, Scratchall, prim in business hours, and excitable under the influence of music, champagne, and a pretty partner, was too good a bit of character in the hands of Mr. Andrews to be forgotten. For the ladies, Mrs. Leigh Murray was exactly the sort of gushing, elderly young lady so often seen. Miss Lydia Foote was the high-spirited girl, veiling to the life her generous instincts beneath an affectation of self-interest; and a whole column ought to be devoted to Miss Kate Terry's performance of the young banker's wife. But time and space forbid detail, notwithstanding which I will mention the loving rage with which she exclaimed "Liar!" to the fellow who branded her husband as a swindler and a thief, and the admirable transition of voice, face, and manner with which she trampled down her grief in order to play the hostess to her assembled guests. The scenery was as good as elaborate as is usual at the Olympic; but I thought the villa by moonlight too florid, too much like Venice and the Adriatic than like London and the Thames.

The Duchess of Cambridge and Princess Mary honoured the LYCEUM with their presence during the past week.

If the theatres will change their performances three, four, and six times a week, it will require not one Lounge but a dozen to notice their performances. At DRURY LANE "Cymbeline," "Richelieu," "As You Like It," and "The School for Scandal" have been played during the past week. Miss Helen Faucit has reappeared as Imogen and Rosalind, and Mr. James Anderson has played Iachimo, Jaques, and Joseph Surface. The services of Mr. Walter Montgomery have been added to the list of this excellent working company, and the pantomime, minus the "comic business," has each night concluded the entertainments. The notice of Messrs. Brough and Halliday's new farce of "Going to the Dogs" must be postponed until your next impression, and the same grace must be given in the case of Mr. H. Leslie's new drama of "The Mariner's Compass," at ASTLEY'S.

The new entertainment at the ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, entitled "A Peculiar Family," is from the pen of Mr. William Brough; it is announced to be produced on Wednesday next, the gallery being closed on Monday and Tuesday to ensure completeness in its representation. "The Sleeping Queen," I see, is advertised for next Saturday.

ROYAL ALHAMBRA PALACE.—Mr. Strange's very spirited speculation appears likely to turn out a profitable investment. The Alhambra is crowded nightly. The entertainments are varied. In addition to a musical corps of soprano, contralto, tenor, and bass, two ballets are given in the course of the evening, the first—the grand Oriental divertissement, to quote the programme—being the identical ballet which has moved the managers of the London theatres to apply to the magistrates for protection. The ballet is well arranged, the scenery is beautiful, and Mlle. Bioletti and the "corps" are highly approved of. Mr. Mackney sings negro songs, and there is a gymnastic performance by M. and Mlle. Sertzenbach to gratify the admirers of sensation exploits of the Leopard and Biondin order. Mr. Bokno's performance of the Grecian statues is very excellent and artistic, and the orchestra is well trained and skilfully conducted.

OUR FEUILLETON.

THE CALASH.

(From the Russian.)

THE little town of B—, in Southern Russia, had become remarkably lively since the 3rd Cavalry Regiment had been quartered there. Prior to this interesting event the inhabitants were nearly moped to death. Anyone passing through this country town, who chanced to cast his eyes on the mean-looking, clay-built houses, and marked their squalid wretchedness experienced a sensation which no pen can describe. Their coatings of whitewash, softened by the rain, had become detached in many places from the walls, which were no longer white but chequered, while the roofs consisted merely of layers of broken reeds. In accordance with a prevailing custom in the southern towns of the empire, the chief of the police had long since felled all the trees by way of improving the view. A living creature was hardly ever to be seen in the streets, unless, indeed, it were a venturesome fowl crossing the road, thickly imbedded in dust, which sank beneath the tread like a soft cushion. After the slightest shower of rain this dust usually became converted into mud, and then every street and lane in the place was filled with swine, which grunted so vehemently and carried themselves so savagely that the traveller was forced to put spurs to his horse and gallop away with all possible speed. At times some landed proprietor of the neighbourhood—half gentleman, half farmer, and the owner, perhaps, of eleven serfs—would pass by, perched up on a carriage—a sort of compromise between a britzka and a telega—surrounded by sacks of flour, and whipping his bay mare and her accompanying foal.

The aspect of the market-place was usually extremely dreary; the tailor's house projected most senselessly, not presenting its front to view, but one of its angles; opposite was a brick house with a couple of windows which, although begun fifteen years ago, was still unfinished. A little further on was a large bazaar, built of wood, and painted a kind of sand colour, entirely isolated from all other buildings. This bazaar, which was to have served as a model for several others, was erected by the chief of police in his younger days before he had acquired the habit of sleeping immediately after he had swallowed his dinner, and of indulging every night to excess in a villainous decoction of dried currants. The remainder of the town was surrounded by hedges, and in the centre of the square were some little stalls in which were invariably to be seen a pile of cakes, a fat woman in a red dress, a few pounds of bitter almonds, a few cakes of soap, some lead, some half-spun cotton, and a couple of merchants' clerks playing at "svaika," a game which consists in throwing a large iron peg through an iron hoop, fixed in the ground, and which seemed to occupy them throughout the day.

On the arrival of the cavalry regiment everything was metamorphosed. The streets were peopled, and assumed a totally different aspect. Often did the inhabitants catch sight of a tall, well-made looking officer, with a plume of feathers curling around his shako, on his way to some brother officer to discuss the chances of promotion or the qualities of some newly-received tobacco, or it might be to risk upon the turn of the card or the throw of the dice his drosky, which might with all due propriety be termed the drosky of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, since without ever leaving the regiment this equipage had belonged in turn to every officer in it. To-day the Major is seen driving it about; to-morrow it will perchance put up at the Lieutenant's; and, a week after, the Major's servant will once more be seen greasing its wheels. The long hedges which separated the country cottages were covered over all at once with soldiers' caps set out to air in the sun; cloaks of coarse grey cloth were hung up at all the gateways; and one met in every street moustaches, hard and bristling as clothes-brushes. These moustaches were to be seen everywhere, but more especially in the market-place, over the shoulders of the women who came there from every quarter of the town to purchase provisions. The officers greatly enlivened the society of B—, which had till then consisted of the Judge, who lodged at the Deacon's, and of the chief of police, a man of sound sense enough, but who used to sleep all day long from dinner-time till evening, and from evening till dinner-time. This general enlivenment was still further increased when the Commandant of the brigade to which the 3rd Regiment belonged had taken up his quarters at B—. A numerous tribe of neighbouring country gentlemen whose existence no one had even suspected, or dreamed of, began to pour into the town with the view of visiting the officers, or of playing at the faro bank, of which till then they had but a very imperfect idea, taken up as they always had been with their crops, their wife's commissions, and their courting. I deeply lament having totally forgotten upon what occasion it was that the General resolved, one fine day, upon giving a grand dinner. The preparations for this event were tremendous. The clatter of the kitchen utensils was heard beyond the gates of the town. The whole market was laid under such extensive contribution that the Judge and the Deacon's wife were obliged, that day, to content themselves with some stew and a tapioca-pudding. The courtyard of the house which the General occupied was packed full of calashes and droskys. The company invited consisted exclusively of officers and gentlemen from the environs.

Among those last named the most remarkable was a certain Pythagoras Pythagorowitch Tchertokoutski, one of the most aristocratic personages of the B— district, the most vehement speaker at the elections of the nobility, and the owner of a splendid and tasteful equipage. He had served in a cavalry regiment, and had passed, moreover, for one of its most accomplished officers, having attended every ball, party, and concert wherever his regiment happened to take up its quarters; he was, consequently, known to every young lady of the governments of Tamboff and Limbirk. He would very probably have extended his renown to other governments had he not been forced to leave the army in consequence of one of those affairs which are commonly termed "disagreeable." Had he received, or had he given some one else, a slap in the face? I cannot affirm which with any degree of certitude. One thing, however, was undeniable, which was that he had been desired to ask the favour of being dismissed the service. This accident, nevertheless, exercised no unpleasant influence upon the consideration which he had till then enjoyed. Tchertokoutski wore habitually a short-waisted coat of the approved military cut; boots, with spurs; and a moustache close under his nose, that the country gentlemen might have no room for imagining he had served in the infantry, a branch of the service to which he applied the most contemptuous epithets. He frequented the numerous fairs, to which through the entire population of Southern Russia—composed mostly of nursery-maids; tall, strapping girls; and stout country gentlemen, who travel thither in britzkas, tarantases, and other vehicles of such strange appearance that nothing of a similar kind has been ever seen by anyone, even in a dream. Tchertokoutski seemed to sniff the locality where any cavalry regiment happened to be quartered, and never failed to go thither and present himself to the officers. On perceiving any of them, he would spring gracefully from his light phaeton and soon contrive to scrape acquaintance with them. On the occasion of the last election he gave a grand dinner, at which he declared he would put all the gentlemen on the best of footings, if he were only chosen Marshal. Generally speaking, he took upon himself the manner and bearing of a great personage. He had married a pretty woman, with a fortune of 200 serfs and some thousands of roubles. The money was immediately expended in the purchase of six fine horses, some locks of gilt bronze, and a tame monkey. He hired, moreover, a French steward. His wife's 200 serfs, and his own also, were pledged at the bank. In short, he was a thorough nobleman. Besides Tchertokoutski there were several other gentlemen invited by the General, but they are not worthy of particular mention. The officers of the 3rd Regiment, among whom were the Colonel and the stout Major, formed the majority of the guests.

The dinner was splendid. There were sturgeon, sterlettes, bustards, partridges, quails, asparagus, mushrooms, &c. The savour of these

various dishes afforded an irrefragable proof of the cook's sobriety during the four-and-twenty hours which preceded the dinner. Four soldiers who had been lent him as aids had worked incessantly the whole night, knife in hand, perfecting the ragouts. The immense number of long-necked bottles of lafitte, and shorter-necked bottles of madeira; a fine summer's day, with the windows wide open; heaps of ice on the table; the tumbled shirt-fronts of the gentlemen in frock coats; a lively and noisy conversation, sometimes drowned by the General's voice, and sometimes irrigated with champagne; everything, in short, was in perfect keeping. The guests rose from table with a pleasurable sense of fulness, after they had lighted each a pipe, either long or short, and all strolled out, coffee-cup in hand, under the portico.

"You can see her now," said the General. "Hark you, my dear fellow!" he added, addressing his aide-de-camp, an active graceful-looking young man, "let the bay mare be led here. You shall see for yourselves, gentlemen."

And the General thereupon aspirated a good puff of smoke. "She is not yet quite recovered; there is no decent stable in this confounded little town. But she is not a bad one;—puff—puff (the General again expelled the smoke with which his mouth was filled)—"this said mare."

"Is it long since your Excellency"—puff—puff—puff—"deigned* to buy it?" asked Tchertokoutski.

Puff—puff—puff—pu—u—u—ff—"Not very long. I obtained it two years ago from the Imperial stud."

"And did you deign to take it already broken in, or have you broken it in yourself?"

Puff, puff, pu—u—u—ff! Here the General disappeared behind a thick cloud of smoke.

A soldier now leaped out from the stable. The clatter of a horse's hoofs was heard; and another soldier, with enormous moustaches, habited in a long, white great coat, approached, leading by the bridle a terrified mare that positively trembled all over. Suddenly recovering herself, she reared, lifting, at the same time, the big, mustached soldier from the ground.

"Come on, then; come on, Agraphena Ivanovna!" he said to her, as he led her towards the door.

The mare was named Agraphena Ivanovna, and was powerful and bold as a southern beauty. She dropped again on her fore feet and stood motionless.

The General looked at her with an air of satisfaction, and ceased smoking. The Colonel himself descended the doorsteps, and took hold of Agraphena Ivanovna's head. The Major stroked her leg; all the other officers clicked their tongues.

Tchertokoutski quitted the portico and examined the hind quarters of the mare.

"She is a fine mare," said Tchertokoutski; "she is almost perfectly formed. May I ask your Excellency, is she a good trotter?"

"She steps well, only—the deuce take it!—that fool of a doctor has given her some pills which have made her sneeze these last two days."

"She is a capital mare! Has your Excellency a carriage in keeping with her?"

"A carriage! What do you mean? Why, it's a saddle-horse!"

"Oh, yes! I know that perfectly; but I made the inquiry, your Excellency, by way of ascertaining whether you have a carriage suited to your other horses."

"No! I am not particularly well off for carriages. I must tell you I have been thinking for some time past of buying an open carriage, like those now in fashion. I have written to my brother, who is at present at St. Petersburg, on the subject; but I don't know whether he will procure me one."

"It appears to me, your Excellency, that the best kind of calashes are those which come from Vienna."

"You are about right." Puff—puff—puff!

"I have a splendid calash, your Excellency—a real Vienna one," said Tchertokoutski.

"What, the one you came in?"

"Oh, no! I use that to go jobbing about with; but the other one is something quite out of the common way. It is as light as a feather; and when you sit in it you can fancy, with your Excellency's leave, that your nurse is rocking you in a cradle."

"It runs very easy, then?"

"Extremely so. The cushions, the springs—everything, in fact, is perfect."

"That's the sort of thing."

"And what a number of things one can pack in it. I never saw another like it, your Excellency. When I was in the army I used to find room in its recesses for ten bottles of rum, twenty pounds of tobacco, half a dozen uniforms, all my linen, and a couple of pipes, your Excellency, the longest we could find; and in the pockets you may stow away an entire ox."

"Very good."

"I paid four thousand roubles for it, your Excellency."

"It ought to be a good one, judging from the price. Did you buy it yourself?"

"No, your Excellency. I obtained it by a mere chance. It belonged to one of my friends, a friend and companion of my childhood, a man in a thousand, who would have suited your Excellency exactly. We were sworn friends. What was mine was his; what was his was mine. I won it from him at a game at cards. Will your Excellency be obliging enough to dine with me to-morrow; and you can then see this calash."

"I hardly know what to say. By myself I could not. But if you will permit me to bring the officers"—

"I beg that the officers will also be kind enough to come, I should esteem it a great honour."

The Colonel, the Major, and other officers bowed politely to Tchertokoutski.

"It is my opinion, your Excellency, that if one buys an article it should always be a good one. It is not worth while purchasing worthless things. When you do me the honour to call on me to-morrow I will show you several improvements that I have lately made on my estate."

The General looked approvingly at the speaker, and sent forth a puff of smoke.

Tchertokoutski, delighted with the invitations he had given, was already ordering in imagination all sorts of rich sauces and ragouts. He looked smilingly towards his anticipated guests, who, on their part, redoubled their attentions, as might be seen in the expression of their eyes and the inclination of their heads whenever they spoke to him. Tchertokoutski's carriage had assumed a slight swagger, and his softened voice marked his extreme satisfaction.

"Your Excellency will then make the acquaintance of the lady of the house," resumed Tchertokoutski.

"That will afford me the greatest possible pleasure," said the General, twirling his moustache.

Tchertokoutski had thoroughly made up his mind to return home, in order to make the necessary preparations for the following day. He had even taken up his hat; but a strange chance caused him to remain some time longer with the General. The card-tables were already laid out, and the entire party soon formed into sets of four, and spread themselves over different parts of the room. Lights were brought. Tchertokoutski did not know whether he ought or ought not to sit down to a rubber at whist. But as the officers invited him, he imagined that, in accordance with the rules of good breeding, it was his duty not to refuse. He therefore sat down to play. I know not how it was that a large glass of punch happened to be placed before him, or that he came to drink it off without thinking. After having played a couple of rubbers, Tchertokoutski again found a glass of the same mixture under his hand, and drank it off as he had done the former one; not, however, without having remarked that it was time for him to go.

He commenced another rubber. Meanwhile the conversation, which was tolerably general, had begun to grow a little noisy. Those who were playing at whist were tolerably quiet; but the

others talked incessantly. A Captain, who had established himself on a sofa, and was reclining on the cushion, with his pipe in his mouth, captivated the attention of the guests assembled round him by an eloquent narration of his love adventures. A very stout gentleman was listening to him with an extremely sweet simper, and from time to time endeavouring to plunge one of his short arms into his pocket, in order to get out his snuffbox. A lively discussion had arisen in another corner of the room upon military evolutions, and Tchertokoutski, who had on two occasions played a knave instead of a king, joined every now and then in the conversation, calling out from his seat at the whist-table, "In what year?" "Of what regiment?" without remarking that his question often referred to nothing whatever. At length, a few moments before supper was announced, the whist parties broke up. But whist was still the engrossing subject of conversation; every head was full of it. Tchertokoutski remembered perfectly well having won considerably, but he forgot to take up the money which he had piled before him. They sat down to supper. As might be expected, there was no lack of wine, and Tchertokoutski was forced to drink some, whether he felt inclined or no, for he was literally surrounded with bottles. A long conversation was carried on at table, but after a rather singular fashion. The Colonel, who had served in 1812, gave an account of a battle that had never been fought, and no one could imagine why he, in the mean time, found it necessary to thrust a cork into a pie. At about three in the morning the guests began to think of separating. The coachmen were under the necessity of lifting several of them into the carriages and carrying them off as though they were so many bales of merchandise.

The coachman who drove Tchertokoutski home found everyone asleep. After a good deal of trouble he roused the valet, who, having conducted his master through the hall, consigned him to the hands of a housemaid. Tchertokoutski blundered after her as well as he could till they came to the bed-room, and then flung himself on the bed by the side of his young and lovely wife, who, disturbed at the noise, stretched out her arms, opened her eyes, then quickly closed them, and again opened them with a half angry expression; but seeing that her husband was not inclined to take the slightest notice of her, she turned round on the other side, laid her blooming cheek upon her little hand, and once more fell off to sleep.

It was no longer early, at least for people of country habits, when the young wife re-awoke. Her husband was snoring louder than ever. She remembered that he had not returned home till four in the morning, and, not wishing to disturb him, she got up alone, put on her little slippers which her husband had brought her from St. Petersburg, and a little white mantle that fell over her light form in folds like the waters of a fountain. Then she repaired to her dressing-room and, after having plunged into water as fresh as herself, she approached her toilet-table. She looked at herself in the glass, and deemed herself more than usually pretty. This circumstance, apparently so insignificant, caused her to remain twice as long as usual before the looking-glass. She dressed herself with perfect taste, and went out into the garden. The weather was beautiful; it was a delicious summer's day. The sun, nearly in the summer solstice, shot forth its most burning rays; but an agreeable freshness pervaded the densely-shaded walks, and the flowers, warmed by the sun, exhaled their sweetest perfumes. The pretty mistress of the house had completely forgotten that it was noon, and that her husband was still sleeping. She already began to distinguish the sonorous breathing of two coachmen and a groom, who were taking their accustomed siesta in the stable, after having partaken of a hearty dinner. Nevertheless, she remained sitting within a leafy bower which commanded a view of the high road, at this moment thoroughly deserted, when all at once her attention was attracted by a slight cloud of dust rising in the distance. After having looked at it for some moments, she distinguished several equipages following each other in a line. First and foremost came a light calash for two, in which were seated the General, wearing his large and brilliant epaulettes, and the Colonel. This carriage was followed by another that held four—namely, the Captain, the Aide-de-Camp, and two Lieutenants. Next came the celebrated regimental drosky, whose present possessor was the stout Major. Behind the drosky rolled on a travelling-carriage, in which were packed five officers, one of whom was seated on a comrade's knees. And, lastly, the entire convoy was wound up by three officers, mounted on superb dappled bay horses.

"Are they coming here?" thought the mistress of the house. "Good Heavens! Yes. They are leaving the high road." Whereupon she uttered a cry, clapped her hands, and ran straight across the flower-beds to her bed-room, where her husband was still reposing in the heaviest of slumbers.

"Get up, get up, get up!" exclaimed she, pulling him by the arm.

"What—what in the world is the matter?" muttered Tchertokoutski, stretching out his limbs, without opening his eyes.

"Get up, get up!" repeated she. "Some visitors have arrived. Do you hear? Some visitors."

"Visitors! What visitors?" Saying this, he made a plaintive little moan, like a young calf when about to be suckled by its mother—"M-m-m; let me kiss your pretty neck."

"My darling! get up quickly, in the name of Heaven! The General has arrived, with all his officers."

"The General? Is he come already? But why the plague did they not wake me? And the dinner—is it all prepared?"

"What dinner?"

"What? Didn't I order a dinner?"

"You order a dinner? You came home at four o'clock in the morning, and would not answer one of my questions. I would not wake you to day because I had compassion on you—you had slept so little." These last words were spoken in a half-languid, half-supplicating, tone of voice.

Tchertokoutski, his eyes starting from his head, remained for some moments quite motionless, as if struck by a thunderbolt. All at once he sprang out of bed. "Ass that I am!" cried he, striking his forehead; "I invited them to dinner. What's to be done? How far off are they?"

"They'll be here in less than a minute."

"My dearest, hide yourself. Halloo, there! send somebody to me. Ah! you little girl, come along here. You little fool! what are you afraid of? The officers are just coming in. Tell them that the gentleman is not at home; tell them that he will not return; that he set off early in the morning. Do you understand? Go quick, and tell all my people what I have told you. Be off with you!"

Having said this, he drew on his dressing-gown in great haste, and ran and shut himself up in the coach-house, which he thought would be the safest hiding-place. But, once there, he began to think he should be discovered in the corner where he had squatted himself down. "This will do better," said he to himself, dashing at the calash which was nearest to him. After violently pulling down the steps he jumped in, shut the door, and, to make matters still safer, covered himself over with the leather apron. Here he remained perfectly still, doubled up, and with his dressing-gown wrapped around him.

During this time the carriages had driven up to the door. The General alighted first, and shook himself. He was followed by the Colonel, who commenced arranging the plumes of his cocked hat by passing his fingers through them. The stout Major next stepped out of the drosky, with his sword under his arm. Then all the Lieutenants, flight and active, leaped out of the travelling-carriage. And, lastly, the officers who had ridden there alighted from their horses.

"The gentleman is not at home," said a servant, coming out upon the doorstep.

"What! not at home? He'll come back to dinner, however?"

"No, he will not. He is gone out for the whole day. He will not return till to-morrow about this hour."

"You don't say so!" exclaimed the General. "Why, what in the world can he mean?"

"By jingo! this is a farce!" said the Colonel, laughing.

"No, no! it's impossible! How can a man do such a thing as this?" continued the General, growing rapidly angry. "The deuce take him! If he could not receive us, why did he invite us?"

"I can't understand, your Excellency, how any man can do such a thing," timidly remarked a young officer.

"What?" exclaimed the General, who always used this abrupt mode of interrogation to any officer below the rank of captain.

"I was saying, your Excellency, that it seemed to me impossible for any man to act in this manner."

"Certainly, if anything had happened to call him from home, he ought, unquestionably, to have let us know."

"There is no help for it, your Excellency; let's go back," said the Colonel.

"There's certainly no help for it. However, we can see the calash without him. He has not taken it with him, I suppose. Halloa! Who's there? Come here, my lad."

"What does your Excellency want?"

"Are you a coachman?"

"Yes, your Excellency."

"Show us your master's new calash."

"Have the goodness to step this way, to the coach-house."

The General entered the coach-house, followed by his officers.

"Allow me to draw it out. It's rather dark here."

"That will do. That will do. That's sufficient."

The General and the officers walked round the calash and examined the wheels and the springs.

"There's nothing remarkable in it," said the General; it's a very ordinary calash."

"Makes no show whatever," added the Colonel.

"It seems to me, your Excellency, that it's not worth four thousand roubles," observed a young officer.

"What?"

"I said, your Excellency, that I did not think it worth four thousand roubles."

"Four thousand! It isn't worth two. Perhaps, however, the inside may be well got up. Hark ye, my lad, undo the apron."

The apron undone, the officers caught sight of Tchertokoutski, in his dressing-gown, huddled up in the strangest of fashions.

"Oh! there you are!" exclaimed the astonished General.

Saying which he re-covered Tchertokoutski up, and set off again with the rest of the officers.

THE TRAFFIC OF THE THAMES EMBANKMENT.

SHOULD a future Herr Teufelsdröck ever favour us with his reflections on men and things in the midst of the whirl and bustle of life in a great city, he will assuredly find no better spot for his profound contemplations than that point at which the reader is supposed to stand as he looks at the scene represented in our Engraving.

We have already given in our columns pretty full particulars of the progress of the material work—of the tons of earth, and stone, and iron; the great beams of timber, the mighty caissons, the cofferdams, the piles, and the engineering details which have gone to form the stupendous attempt to make a grand roadway by the river through the heart of London; but the mere material elements of the scheme, its bricks and mortar, stone and iron, are after all but the least part of it. When its purpose is accomplished, and the great stream of life pours onward hither and thither, beside that less rapid and less eager tide, through London city, we shall see what has been achieved. Projecting our minds into the future, and standing quietly for a few minutes (if the feverish rush and excitement will permit contemplative calm) at the point where beneath the arch of the bridge of Waterloo we see one section of the great river-way, we may classify locomotive man into many varieties of species. Above us, on the bridge itself (by that time toll abolished), swift hansoms with a rakish air send to the transpontine railway stations. Omnibuses are loaded with outside passengers, who look down upon the moving panorama beneath them, and feel an electric influence on the very "knifeboard" on which they sit; workmen in their "dinner hour" and seedy loungers who have lost count of hours and go dinnerless, lean with their arms on the balustrade, and, looking over at the constant ebb and flow of that great human stream, fall a-musing, and so lose time and place together. Country visitors, escorted by knowing London cousins, look and wonder, not without a sort of pity for the restlessness which, as the native Australian once said, makes the English (and notably the Londoner) take more trouble to live than life is worth. He grows interested, however, as he is told how the work began by borings down into the river bed to the stratum of London clay, and how piece by piece, slowly but surely, the great embankment, the finest work of modern times, reached its full length of 7000 ft. There, upon the splendid causeway from bridge to bridge, and along the broad promenade adorned with statuary, and looking on one side over the once-silvery Thames, now partially restored to its pristine state, go all sorts and conditions of men—barristers and their clerks hurrying to and from the new Law Courts, town travellers in neat gigs (emblems in Herr Teufelsdröck's time of acknowledged respectability), doctors in quiet oraghams of the "pill-box" pattern, guardsmen, students, priests, oratorians, Church dignitaries, servant-girls, police, perambulators, flâneurs, authors, actors, idlers, printers' devils, street arabs, beggars, thieves, workmen at rest, trifiers at work, society in chariots, life in every variety on foot; the world, the flesh, and the—well, the evil influences of the age at one view, through that great peep-show hole, the arch of Waterloo Bridge. These are two of the superficial strata of such life as may probably be seen above ground; but lower still, towards the London clay, the tide goes on as ceaselessly: in river steamers, ferry-boats, wherries, wicker-boats, cutters, canoes, cockle-shells, great lumbering barges, where men live, and sleep, and cook. At those five piers at the foot of each intersecting bridge, and at the intermediate landing-stages, men and women come and go to change the colours and patterns in that kaleidoscope of life above. Nor is this all. From stations here and there along the great river-road come more loungers, guardsmen, priests, prelates, masters, servants, lawyers, doctors, thieves, beggars, to supply the place of those who are now under ground, rushing onwards on that twilight railway from which the hoarse rumble of the heavy train and the sudden scream of the warning whistle have helped to scare us for a moment from our philosophic survey. Yes, the Metropolitan Extension of the Underground Railway girds London with a subterranean belt of iron. From what once was Smithfield to Paddington, thence westward to Craven Hill; to Bayswater, with a southward turn to Kensington; to Brompton, and across the Fulham-road by sleepy Sloane-square, and so into Piccadilly along Victoria-street, in front of the London, Chatham, and Dover station, to Bridge-street, Westminster, where the wonderful subway enters the Thames Embankment and pierces it to Blackfriars, and then undermines the new street south of Cannon-street; and, passing beneath King William-street near the statue in a course due east, holds its way under Great Tower-street, Trinity-square, Whitechapel, and thence across Bishopsgate-street by Houndsditch, Liverpool-street, and Finsbury-circus, whence it completes the magic circle at Smithfield. In this giddy round of London life the trains roar and rattle all day long; and in the smaller subway above, devoted to the gas and water pipes, so that the great road may never be "up," or in the deep low-level sewer beneath, where the black Stygian stream of London drainage flows to the outfall miles away, groups of workmen, or solitary mudlarks, in sou'-westers and great thigh-boots, may feel the tremble of the earth, and think of some remote future when present civilisation (which is mostly a collection of experiments for the increase of bodily comfort) shall be mentioned with a sunny smile or a pitying shrug. For our own part, we think it extremely unlikely that workman or mudlark will be troubled by any such considerations, as a pint of honest beer would be more to their purpose—and, for that matter, to ours also—for, whatever may lie hidden in the future, the Thames Embankment is an example of part of that work which the men of our own age have set themselves to perform; and the tide of life, which have been watching in imagination, with all its imperfections, hopes, aspirations, and beliefs, is the energetic, indifferent, earnest, cynical, iconoclastic, conservative, restless, transitional life of our own exceptional time.

* In Russia, when an inferior speaks of the actions of his superior, he always uses the verb to deign. Servants still tell you their master deigned to die.

M. GOUNOD AND "THE MOCK DOCTOR."

M. GOUNOD, the now celebrated composer, was very little known in England, and still less esteemed, until his "Faust" was produced the year before last at Her Majesty's Theatre. His "Sappho" had been played some years before at the Royal Italian Opera; but it produced no favourable impression on the public, and was soon withdrawn. Every chance had been given to it by the management, and M. Viardot, who undertook the principal character, exerted herself to the utmost; but in vain. The piece fell like Sappho herself from the rock; and it certainly seemed at the time that M. Gounod's reputation as a composer would also not survive the fall. M. Gounod's other operas, such as "La Nonne Sanglante" and "La Reine de Saba," were not brought out in England at all. A few of his songs reached us, and have remained; and a mass written by him for one of the church performances in Paris, in honour of St. Cecilia's Day, was executed once at St. Martin's Hall, under the direction of Mr. Hullah.

What, then, was the cause of M. Gounod's non-success a few years ago, and of the great success which he has achieved now? The explanation lies, to some extent, no doubt, in the fact that until M. Gounod set to work upon "Faust" he had never been provided with a good libretto. Although MM. Jules Barbier and Michel Carré have taken strange, unjustifiable, and, moreover, stupid liberties with Goethe's drama, they have, nevertheless, extracted from it the chief materials for a good opera-book. Their generosity in furnishing Margaret with a ready-made lover ought, we think, to have been protested against by the composer, who would scarcely have dared to accept the absurd hobbledohoy called Siebel as one of his dramatic personae had Goethe been alive. It was a mistake, we sometimes think, on the part of Mozart's librettist, Da Ponte, to give Donna Anna a lover, though it is true she does not care for Don Ottavio and only treats him as a suitor recommended to her attention by her parents. But little Siebel gives himself the airs of an admirer whose passion is returned, and has the coolness to

pick the flowers in Margaret's own garden, under the pretence of making up a bouquet for her. It might have struck the French librettists that, when a man sells himself to the fiend, he doesn't

ing, an opera—unless every sort of drama in which music and singing are introduced be thought entitled to the name. The real meaning of opera—or *opera musicale*, as such productions were

do so for the sake of carrying off a girl who has already been engaged in a flirtation, however mild, with such a person as young Siebel, or, indeed, with anyone else.

However, the story of Faust and Margaret is dramatic enough, and many persons think there is something very profound in it, which not only increases their interest in the proceedings, but makes them feel satisfied with themselves when they have seen the piece. Whenever Lucifer is introduced into a play people think that, somehow or other, it must be philosophical. They forget that, in the opera of "Faust," the philosophy is of necessity left out, and that all that remains is the mere plot, which, though dramatic enough, is almost as commonplace as a story in a penny periodical. It is not as a philosophical but as a sensational play, that the "Faust" of MM. Barbier and Carré, and of M. Gounod, has obtained its success. It has also, no doubt, succeeded to some extent because Satan plays one of the principal parts; for it is a fact suggestive of many reflections (with which we will not trouble the reader at present) that whenever Satan is introduced into a drama it is sure not to fail.

After the success of "Faust" there was naturally great anxiety on the part of London managers and music publishers to secure the acting and publishing right of M. Gounod's "Mireille," or "Mirella," as it was called in the Italian version. It was produced at Her Majesty's Theatre, and is, we believe, to be brought out next season at the Royal Italian Opera. Here, again, M. Gounod had an excellent libretto—excellent, however, less from the incidents of the piece than from its general picturesqueness. The chief personages are strongly characterised; and, for a composer of M. Gounod's ability, it was easy to assign to each a distinct musical physiognomy.

M. Gounod's latest success in England, "Le Médecin Malgré Lui," was brought out in Paris seven years ago. The piece, in its newest form, is not, strictly speak-



M. GOUNOD, THE COMPOSER.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY P. E. CHAPUIS.)



SCENE FROM THE OPERA OF "THE MOCK DOCTOR," AT COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE.

originally called—is a musical work, or, rather, a work in music. Of the first operas produced in Italy, as of the operas produced in Italy now, every note was sung or recited. As for the French "opéra comique," it is only a development of the vaudeville; but Gounod's "Médecin Malgré Lui" is scarcely so much as an opéra comique—at least as opéras comiques are written now.

Everyone knows the story of the woodcutter who quarrelled with his wife, and, when a passer-by wished to interfere between them, joined with his wife in attacking the harmless peacemaker—as the Federal and Confederate in America, without the same provocation, think of attacking England. Everyone knows how, when left to herself, anxious to avenge upon her husband the blows he had administered to her, the wife declared him to be a doctor of eccentric habits, capable of curing every malady, but requiring to be well thrashed before he would confess that he possessed the slightest medical knowledge. We publish this week an illustration representing "Sganarelle" (or "Dominique," as Mr. Charles Kenney calls the woodcutter in his excellent version of the play) after he has received his thrashing and has declared, like a sensible man, to avoid being thrashed any more, that he is a doctor. He is now in full practice, taking fees whenever they are offered to him, and feeling pulses even when they are not offered to him at all—as in the case of Jacqueline, the nurse, whose hand he seizes in the most unmedical manner.

EXECUTION OF A BRIGAND AT CASTRO.

OUR readers will, perhaps, already have become acquainted with the conciliatory manner exhibited by the Ultramontane papers of Italy towards the brigands who have so long infested some of the districts, where there can be no doubt that they have received the countenance, if not the protection, of the Papal Power.

Of one of the chiefs, who has been recently captured (one Tamburini), a Roman print speaks in terms which would be more appropriate in describing a princely ambassador, and represents the ruffian whose cruelties and cowardly robberies have for some time rendered him a pest to mankind as the "very picture of a brave brigand chief," with the picturesque appearance of a hero of romance and a right royal bearing.

Happily for the safety of society, however, this kindly forbearance towards the frailties of assassins and the errors of cut-throats is not shared in either by the Italian Government or by the French troops, who have not yet been removed from the Imperial City; and our Engraving represents one of the latest incidents in the present history of brigandage. In the month of October last two French gendarmes, named Legrand and Tribillac, in returning from Castro, fell into an ambush of brigands, forming part of the band of a scoundrel named Guerra, and were immediately set upon and killed in the most cowardly manner.

Only one of the assassins, named Vincenzo Graziani di Luca—a native of Calabria—has been captured; and it was determined to make an example of him, since very little improvement has been effected in that condition of the country which has been brought about by the continued violations of law by the armed bands occupying the mountains on the Neapolitan frontier. Sentence of death was therefore recorded by the French Consulate against the brigand, and twenty-one other brigands (the rest of the detachment of Guerra's band who had been concerned in the murder) were adjudged, by default, to the same fate upon their apprehension.

The execution took place on Feb. 4, on the bank of the Sacco, at the foot of the steep mountain which rises above Castro. On the morning of the execution, according to custom, the death-bell was tolled at all the churches in the village. At ten o'clock, the



M. LANGIEWICZ, LATE DICTATOR OF POLAND.

"Brotherhood of Death," attached to the Convent of Madona del Piano, preceded by the cross and followed by the Sacconi carrying the bier, set out towards this spot. The condemned, who was taken from the Château St. Angelo at five o'clock in the morning, arrived by railway, at half-past ten, at the nearest station, and at eleven on the Bridge of Castro.

He was attended by two priests. His countenance exhibited no emotion, since he appeared to be entirely engaged in devotion. He advanced with a firm step to the centre of the troop and listened

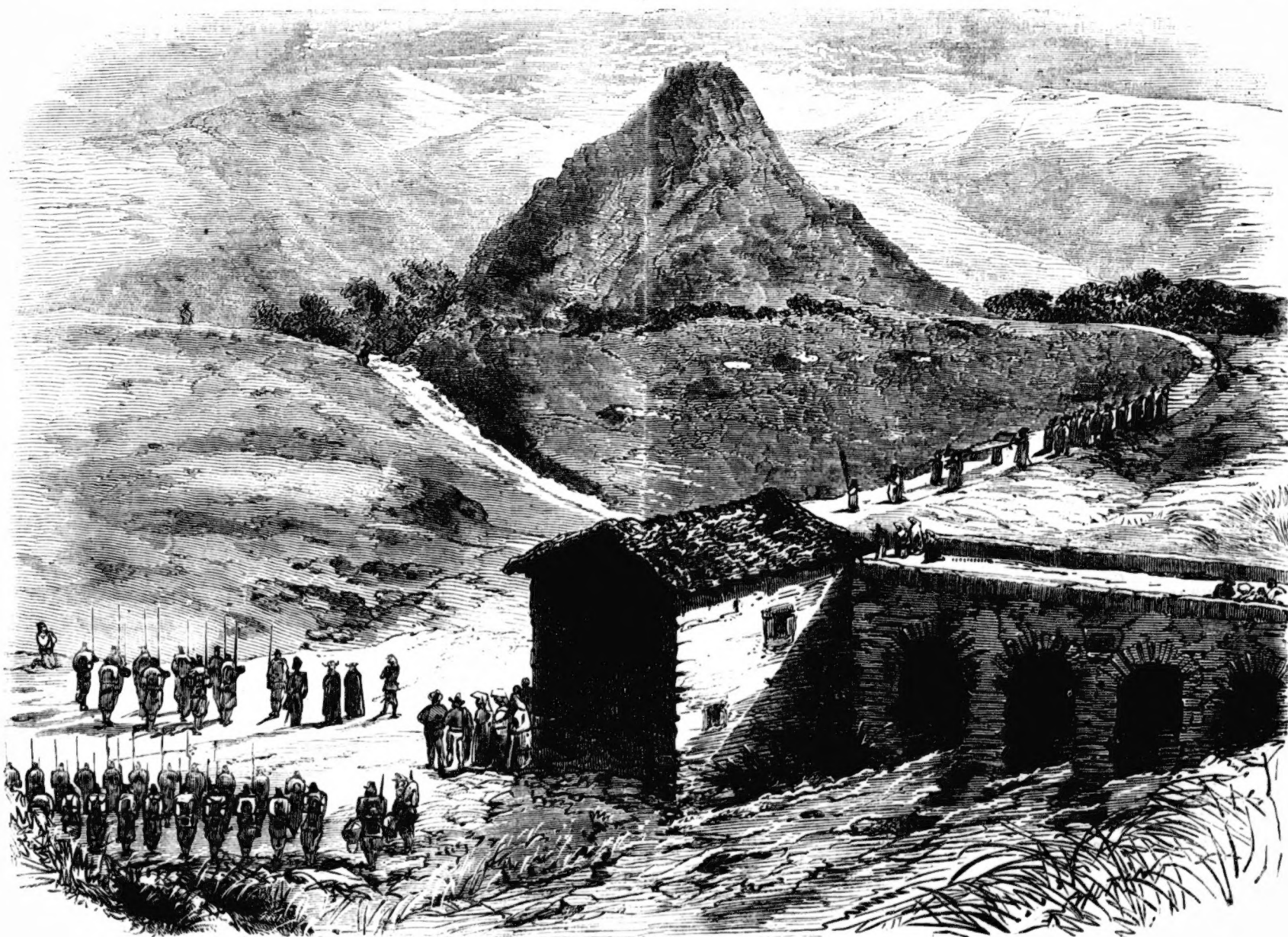
calmly to the reading of the sentence. His eyes were then bandaged; and, after he had knelt down and received absolution, he continued to repeat prayers until he fell pierced by a volley from the soldiers who had been appointed to the office of executioners. His death was instantaneous, since one ball had entered his head and three had pierced his heart. The Brotherhood of Death then raised the body and carried it up the mountain, that it might be buried at the Madona del Tomaro, where the Archpriest waited to perform the mortuary masses. The inhabitants of Castro assembled on Mount Olivo, the highest point of the village, in order to witness from a distance this painful spectacle, and some fifteen or twenty men and women ventured to the place of execution.

A letter from Venosa, in the Basilicata, mentions that that place has been surrendered to General Pallavicini by the formidable brigand chief Totaro, accompanied by ten men of his band. It would appear that these outlaws have been so constantly harassed by a detachment of bersaglieri that they had no choice left but to surrender.

Totaro is one of those leaders who have given most trouble to the troops employed in the arduous and inglorious service of brigand-hunting, and his surrender is said to be almost tantamount to the extinction of brigandage in the Basilicata. This brigand chief is described as a tall man, stern, and gloomy-looking rather than of ferocious aspect, thirty-seven years old, and of great cunning and resource. For twelve years he served the Bourbons as a gendarme, and has since served them as a brigand, committing many crimes and accumulating much plunder. His second in command, a certain Castellane, is described as young and handsome, of the melodramatic class of ruffian. The others are all repulsive and hideous wretches, with the exception of a youth of eighteen, who has the look of a woman, but has already been for three years a member of the iniquitous band. The eleven brigands brought in their horses fully equipped for service, and a quantity of arms. Money they had none, having, it is supposed, either hidden it or given it to their families before surrendering. It is mentioned as a curious incident that, when the whole band was marching to give itself up, three brigands, who usually formed part of the bands infesting the coast, galloped off with the intention of escaping and avoiding surrender, and that thereupon their comrades fired at them, and would doubtless have killed them, had they not left their horses and plunged into the surrounding thickets.

LANGIEWICZ, THE EX-DICTATOR OF POLAND.

DURING the early days of the Polish insurrection we gave some account of the man who was the recognised leader of a large section of the insurgents, and who rose by the force of circumstances to the leadership of the country under the title of dictator. It will be remembered that many of the most influential of the Polish chiefs regarded Langiewicz with suspicion, and some rumours were current at the time that he was not even a Pole by undoubted descent. Whatever may have been his influence, however, he gained some of the earliest actions against the enemy, and, at a time when leadership was valuable, organised an armed force and gave an army and a military government to the insurrection, which he was the first to develop in any regular shape. The simplicity of the life which Langiewicz led as an insurgent general—dwelling amongst his troops in the field—was, however, not without the element of romance; and however great his fame became, it was at least equalled by that of the celebrated female aide-de-camp, Mdlle. Pustovoydova, the young Russian lady, daughter of a Polish mother, who escaped



EXECUTION OF A BRIGAND AT CASTRO FOR THE MURDER OF TWO FRENCH GENDARMES.

from a convent and devoted herself to the General. Even while this romantic episode was engrossing public attention, however, and when the first hopes which the Poles had fixed on Langiewicz were a little disappointed, both she and the General himself were taken prisoners and carried across the frontier to Austrian keeping. Mdle. Pustovoydova, we believe, regained her liberty; but the General has remained in durance until the last week or two—suffered to enjoy partial liberty only on parole, and while strictly watched. Meanwhile, his name and former prestige have been almost forgotten, and would perhaps have been scarcely remembered in connection with Polish history but for a paragraph in the papers which announces his release and his departure to Zurich, where the police authorities have been warned of his "dangerous character," but have replied that he will be treated like any ordinary traveller.

The news from Poland is no longer of an insurrection; and, although the reports which have reached England from Moscow of a contemplated fusion of the kingdom of Poland with the Russian empire are declared to be entirely without foundation, the condition of the country is that of utter prostration. The Governor of Poland has received the official instructions for the reorganisation of the kingdom; and by the same instructions the Imperial Commissions for special purposes, and the existing Provincial Governments, are suspended; so that, in fact, the different branches of the public administration will be departments of the respective ministries at St. Petersburg.

The whole country will be divided into twenty-seven departments, each under the direction of a Prefect. The post of Governor of Poland is suppressed, and the functions of this office are fulfilled by the chief of the civil administration and the Commander-in-Chief of the troops stationed in Polish provinces.

Meanwhile the terrible facts of the history of the insurrection are becoming known, and statistics are being published of the losses sustained by the country during the long and arduous struggle. During the sixteen months' conflict 30,000 insurgents have been either killed or severely wounded in battle; 361 persons have been executed; and 85,000 prisoners have been deported into Siberia or the interior of Russia. The fines levied in the kingdom of Poland amount to a million sterling; in the Lithuanian government, to £1,300,000; and in Volhynia, Podolia, and Kiev, to £1,075,000. In the kingdom 700 estates, and in other provinces 2000 estates, have been sequestrated; and throughout the war the landowners and others were taxed by the National Government to a very large amount for the purpose of supporting the insurrection.

The number of Poles who fled after the final defeat of the insurgents amounted to 10,000, and about 6000 are still under examination.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Macmillan contains matter of such varied excellence that I cannot at all pretend to do it justice in a paragraph. The general reader will be much interested in "The Early Years of Erasmus," by Dr. Hamilton; "Sanremo Revisited" (a commencement), by the author of "Doctor Antonio;" and other matters. I have already called attention to the story called "A Son of the Soil;" it is a fine specimen of its order. More masculine and objective, much less subtle, but capital in its way, is Mr. H. Kingsley's "Story of Two Families," with its vivid pictures of colonial life—pictures impregnated with the highest spirit that can be put into conventional forms, but sometimes making us sceptical as to the possibility of putting real, lasting life into such dry bones.

I wish the *Victoria* were good enough to be praised, for it is a very neat, pretty magazine; but there is nothing better to say of it than that "Trouble at Thornhill" promises to be a good story.

Good Words, with Charles Kingsley's romance of "Hereward" and a great deal of other matter, including another of the Duke of Argyll's essays, is well up to its usual standard. Mr. Henry Rogers contributes "A Vision about Prevision," the purport of which our readers will guess. It is written with all the force of illustration which we have learned to expect from Mr. Rogers, and is a very entertaining paper, whatever you may think about the conclusion. But Mr. Rogers entirely mistakes the problem. He supposes, in a dream, that mankind has acquired the power of scientific "prevision," and has remained morally the same. This vitiates his argument. In the first place, it is impossible that the intellectual conditions should be altered and the moral conditions continue unaltered. In the second place, nobody ever imagined such a thing would take place. The enemy whom the author of "The Eclipse of Faith" is here attacking knows nothing about any unchanging type—man. Its notion is development—incessant, uncoordinated changes in every type. What Mr. Rogers must do is to conceive, if he can, a gradual increase of the power of "prevision" working out a gradual, consentaneous change in the moral feelings and circumstances of the race. This gentleman has a wonderful knack of putting on the logical thumbscrew of the dilemma; but what one would like a thinker to do is this—to try, by an effort, to sympathise with the opponent's difficulty in its whole extent, and then see what can be done with the question. Manifestly, there is a difficulty, take it which way you will. What has Mr. Rogers to say to it? It is far more important to make, each for himself, positive contributions to opinion than to make opponents look foolish.

This time the *Household Monthly Magazine* is very good indeed. "My Husband's Fantasy;" "Maid Mettell," the first of a series of Old Danish Ballads; "A Strike against House Rents," and some other contributions are of excellent quality. The little story, called "My Husband's Fantasy" is better in conception than in execution; but it is really good, after all. Why did not the authoress (?) try her hand at a really difficult problem—that of making Miss McDonald all that "John" thought her? Here, again, one loses patience. Essayists and story-tellers are nearly all alike—they dodge the difficulties, instead of making the worst of them, preparatory to making the best of them.

I hear of several new periodicals which are shortly to appear. One, to be published by Messrs. Tinsley and to be issued on the 1st of May, is to be entitled the *Shilling Magazine*, and will be edited by Mr. Samuel Lucas, M.A., of Queen's College, Oxford, a gentleman who has long been connected with first-class serial literature, and who obtained the Newdegate and the Chancellor's prize for English essay at Oxford some twenty years ago. Mr. Lucas will be assisted, it is said, by some of the ablest writers of the day, and the magazine will be of the widest and most cosmopolitan description. Two others—one monthly, to be called the *Watch-Tower*, and the other weekly, to be entitled *The Day of Rest*—of a semi-religious character, are to be issued from the establishment from which *Temple Bar* now emanates. The monthly, it is understood, will be edited by Mr. Edmund Yates, and will be devoted to the defence and propagation of the tenets of the Church of England. The weekly is to be conducted by the author of "The Gentle Life," and, according to the prospectus, will "seek to be an exponent of those principles which all good men, whatever their shade of opinion, have in common," and will "aim, not so much at forcing religion upon people, as at teaching common things religiously."

A LADY was recently committed to Bristol gaol, arrested for a debt of £50, when the governor informed her that in a month he would have to return her as a defaulter, when she would be adjudged a bankrupt, and her property, if any, divided amongst the creditors. She intimated she had no property, and therefore must abide the result. On being afterwards searched, according to the rules of the prison, £800 was found secreted in her dress.

MUSICAL MEMORANDA.

MDLLE. JEMA VON MURSKA is at present absorbing the interest of the public at the Imperial Opera House of Vienna. "The fair and esteemed artist," says one of the Vienna journals, "continued last week, as Lucia, in Donizetti's opera of the same name, the engagement she had commenced under the most brilliant auspices. Though Mdle. von Murska has not been on the stage more than a few years, her performance of the parts in which we have seen her is that of a thorough artist. The part of Lucia, especially, is sung by her in an admirable manner. It is impossible to conceive anything more charming or more successful, technically and artistically, than her rendering of the entire first act; her share in the septet of the second act; and her mad scene in the third act. Her faultless intonation; her nice gradations, to a hair's breadth, of the intervals in every register—in the forte as well as in the piano, in the portamento as well as the staccato; her mode, never audible, of taking breath; her invariably correct phrasing, and her strict observance of the *tempi*, are, it is true, all merely so many fundamental conditions of a good method, which, however, we meet with at present so rarely, even in the most popular and most eminent lady vocalists, that they produce quite a revivifying effect. The above qualities, combined with the delicacy, grace, and elegance of her style, afford us in all Mdle. von Murska does an unalloyed and very unusual artistic treat."

M. Adolphe Sax, well known as the inventor and maker of saxhorns, has forbidden Mdle. Sax, the vocalist, to bear any longer a name which M. Sax maintains is not her lawful property. The true name of the so-called Mdle. "Sax" is "Sasse," and M. Sax has threatened to bring an action against her if she persists in assuming his.

The French and Belgian musical papers are full of articles on the subject of the action which the grandson of Rouget de Lisle is bringing against M. Fétis, the well-known musical biographer, for having ventured to state that Rouget de Lisle wrote the words alone, and not the music, of the "Marseillaise." The German papers have also something to say on the subject, and we believe they are right in affirming that the air is of German origin. M. Moriz Hartmann is one of the numerous writers interested in the question, and in a curious article upon it, he gives some particulars respecting the supposed origin of the hymn, and introduces his readers to the eccentric man who, as Rouget de Lisle's representative, will not allow anyone to say that the music was not composed by Rouget de Lisle. "The Marseillaise," or rather the enemies of "The Marseillaise," had reduced a brother of the poet to such straits," says M. Hartmann, "that he sold, for nothing, or next to nothing, a landed estate, the only property of the family, in order that he might leave a neighbourhood where he was known, and flee to one where he would not be recognised. My visitor (i.e., the grandson of Rouget de Lisle the poet) took hours to relate the history of all the misfortunes suffered by his family, and they were all to be traced back to 'The Marseillaise.' Now, lo! and behold, the same man intends to bring an action against M. Fétis because that gentleman will not allow that the family possess the sole moral right to 'The Marseillaise.' It is a noble trait in a man not to give up a noble piece of property, even though it be his ruin. A remarkable fact, however, is that everything (origin, elaboration, name) connected with this world-moving song is obscure, mythical, confused, and dark, as though it were the subject of some very ancient *saga*. Written in Strasbourg, it was not popular. It became popular when the Marseillais took it to Paris, and from that time it was called 'The Marseillaise.' It was not, however, the Marseillais who sang it, but the Marcellargers, inhabitants of the Protestant village of Marcellargue, which is situated in the swamps of Languedoc, and is of Roman origin—its name being properly Marcellargue. Their schoolmaster and singing-master had it sent him by a friend of his, a schoolmaster in Strasbourg, and sang it first in the church, where, according to the custom of the time, a *fête civique*, rather than Divine service, was celebrated every Sunday. There, in the Roman village, hidden behind reeds and marshy grass, did it burst forth into flame; the volunteers from Marcellargue fell in, on their road to Paris, with the Marseillais, and so in Paris people say the Marseillais sang the song, and under the name of 'The Marseillaise' it found its way to the frontier, and reached Strasbourg, where it was then, for the first time, properly appreciated."

THE THREE KINGDOMS.

THE publication of the general report on the Irish Census gives the means of comparing the three kingdoms in various particulars. The Census of 1861 found a population actually present (without counting persons then serving abroad as soldiers, sailors, and seamen) of 344 persons to the square mile in England, 100 in Scotland, and 178 in Ireland. Of the male population 46.46 per cent in England were in the prime of life, between the ages of twenty and sixty; 43.83 per cent in Scotland; 45.94 per cent in Ireland. In England there were 95 males to every 100 females; in Scotland, 90; in Ireland 95.8. Of the grown-up population, fifteen years old and upwards, 53.56 per cent in England were married, 46.38 in Scotland, and 43.13 in Ireland. Excluding a few persons, about whom no sufficient information was given, the relative numbers of each class were as follow in 1861:—The professional class were 2.4 per cent of the whole population in England, 1.7 per cent in Scotland, and 1.8 in Ireland. The domestic class (women and children not otherwise classed) were 57.4 per cent in England, 57 in Scotland, and 56.8 in Ireland; the commercial, 3.1 per cent in England, 2.8 in Scotland, 2.2 in Ireland; the industrial, 24.3 per cent in England, 22.8 in Scotland, 12.3 in Ireland; the agricultural, 10.1 per cent in England, 12.5 in Scotland, 18.3 in Ireland; the indefinite and non-productive, 2.7 per cent in England, 3.2 in Scotland, 8.6 in Ireland. The proportion of the population of Ireland above five years old unable either to read or write fell from 53 per cent in 1841 to 39 per cent in 1861. Those living in mud cabins of one room, or in the very lowest class of house accommodation, fell from 43.5 per cent in 1841 to 15.2 per cent in 1861. The proportion of families dependent on their own manual labour declined from 67.9 per cent in 1841 to 34.7 in 1861. The proportion of the population of Ireland which was English born was 0.26 per cent in 1841, 0.53 in 1851, 0.88 in 1861; Scottish born, 0.11 in 1841, 0.19 in 1851, 0.29 in 1861; foreigners, 0.05 in 1841, 0.15 in 1851, 0.18 in 1861. But Connaught has among its population only 0.37 per cent English born, and only 0.13 per cent Scottish born. In 1861 there were 601,634 natives of Ireland to be found in England and Wales, and 50,936 natives of England and Wales found in Ireland; there were 204,083 natives of Ireland found in Scotland, and 16,925 natives of Scotland found in Ireland. Of all the 5,798,967 persons enumerated in Ireland in 1861 there were only 78,281 (1.35 per cent) who were not natives of Ireland; and of the 5,720,686 natives of Ireland who were found in Ireland at the last Census, all but 468,199—that is to say, nearly 92 per cent—still resided in their native country. In Ireland the quantity of land under crops or fallow fell from 29.8 per cent of the entire surface of the country in 1851 to 29.2 in 1861; but the quantity under grass rose from 43.1 per cent to 46.9. 784,952 acres were added to the grass lands in the ten years. The quantity of bog, waste, water, &c., fell from 25.6 per cent of the entire surface in 1851 to 22.3 in 1861, owing to the conversion of bog and waste into pasture; but the quantity returned as bog and waste is not altogether unprofitable, as the large areas of bog afford fuel at a much cheaper rate than that at which coals could at present be procured.

THE LASH AND THE BRAND.—A return has been issued, pursuant to a resolution of the House of Commons, showing the number of men flogged in the British Army, whether at home, in India, or the colonies, during the year 1862, with details of their punishment, what for, when, and where carried out, the number of lashes ordered, and if all were inflicted. Besides this there is a simple return of the number of men who were during that time branded with the letter D or with the letters B.C. One line suffices for the militia in these statistics, no single instance of either description of punishment having been ordered. In the cavalry regiments but very few cases of flogging occurred; in no regiment more than three, and in many of those having any cases only one such punishment was carried out. The 31st Regiment has a pre-eminence for the number of lashes which were inflicted in its ranks, thirty-three cases having been so punished; and the 67th Regiment comes next, with twenty-six cases. The others had much fewer. The 14th had fourteen; the 19th, twelve; Rifle Brigade, nine; the 8th, nine. Some others had nearly as many as this last; and a considerable number but very few. Many are not reported at all. There were forty-three cases in the Royal Artillery. The number of lashes ordered was in almost every case fifty, and in very few instances was any part of the punishment remitted. The offences were in all places of a similar description; insubordination, violence to superiors, desertion, disgraceful conduct, making away with necessities, habitual drunkenness, &c. In all there were 379 cases, for which 18,600 lashes were decreed, and for which 18,180 were inflicted. There were 1492 men marked with the D and thirty-seven with the B.C.

FINE ARTS.

THE GENERAL EXHIBITION OF WATER COLOURS AT THE EGYPTIAN HALL.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

IN marine and seashore subjects the gallery is almost as strong as in landscape. Mr. Melby is in full force there. "At Sea—Evening" (196) is perhaps the best of his pictures, though it is hard to choose where all are good, but the way in which the ship in this one stands out against the sky is very fine. Mr. Mogford is also well represented, his "Longship Lighthouse" (202) being the one we should select for mention. Mr. W. Severn exhibits a view of the "Bay of Catalan" (201), which bears the stamp of truthfulness, a merit also to be noted in Mr. Townsend's bright little glimpse of sea at "Amalfi" (108).

Mr. Beverley, the scenic artist, gives convincing proof in several very pleasing pictures that his labours for the stage have not in the least impaired his powers of painting small pictures. Mr. Stocks, Mr. Tucker, Mr. Hart, and Mr. May also exhibit pictures belonging more or less to this class, to which want of space alone prevents us from doing full justice.

In animal subjects and still-life we find Mr. Bottomley exhibiting "Down, Charge" (133), a spirited sketch of a dog; Mr. Whitford "Fruit" (70), a pleasant bit of pure colour; Mr. Sherrin "A Wood Pigeon" (129), with some peculiarly good painting of plumage; Mr. E. G. Dalziel some "Dried Sprats" (259); Miss Phillott some lifelike "Brackens" (411); and Miss Coleman, represented by numerous miraculous miniatures of fruits, and flowers, and birds, almost unrivalled in finish and reality.

In figure-subjects the gallery can hardly be called rich, for there are not many, and of those which there are a considerable portion are painted by young artists, whom we regret to find imitating the crude eccentricities of Mr. Burne Jones. If a young and ambitious artist fails to attract attention by the legitimate means of study and honesty, and therefore affects eccentricity to accomplish his end, we can perhaps pardon the weakness, but his imitators have not the excuse of originality to plead, and we regret to see many who were forming styles and reputations of their own foolishly mimicking the mannerisms of an artist who must be dubbed founder of the pre-Adamite school, because the creatures he paints are not human beings.

Mr. Simeon Solomon, whose picture of a deacon in the 1st Royal Academy showed great promise, has betaken himself to the dirty colouring, false outline, and overcharged affectations of this school. This is the more to be regretted because his "Antinous Dionysiacus" (239) has many good points about it. We cannot say so much for the pale-eyed young lady, with swollen lips and an inflamed nose, described in the catalogue—one cannot see why—as "Glaunce." "Influenza" would have been a better title. Miss Solomon, who had struck out a path of her own and made some progress in it, has followed her brother's example, but is rescued by her feminine taste from utter extremes. Her "Prima Vera" (255) might have been good.

Mr. Poynter has been slightly bitten with the mania, too, and has made his palette "eat dirt," to the great disadvantage of his colouring. His "Legend of the Fan" (364) and "Beware!" (376) would both be excellent but for this infatuation, which has injured at once the brilliancy of their colour and the beauty of their outline.

How pleasant to turn from these painful instances of the fatal influence of a mistaken style and the proneness of the human mind to set down all eccentricity as genius, to the pure and brilliant colouring and graceful drawing of Mr. Rossiter, whose "Lesson" (433) and "Terrace Steps" (441) are most agreeable examples of his manner.

Mr. Pasquier's "Escort" (87), in spite of a few minor faults in the working out, is a well-conceived and cleverly-composed picture. The drawing, as might be expected of so experienced a draughtsman, is telling, and the effect well worked out. Mr. T. Dalziel, another experienced draughtsman, also exhibits; and his two or three small pictures are very charming, the one most to our taste being No. 345. Mr. George Thomas, yet another artist on the wood—and one of the first of the day, too—has one picture here, a little "Girl and Butterfly" (210), which is as charming as it is possible for anything to be. Mr. J. Pinwell is here, too—how many friends to whom we are indebted for lifelike pictures illustrating our favourite authors do we meet in this most pleasant gallery! Mr. Pinwell's subject is from "The Vicar of Wakefield" (225); the composition—need we say it?—is very good; the colouring not so satisfactory.

Mr. J. Jopling is best represented by "Inspiration" (295), a telling bit of colouring; but a "Sans Culotte" (352) is far from bad either. Mr. T. Mogford's "La Bonne Bouche" is clever, and so is Mr. Ludovici's "Student's Head" (227).

Mr. Fitzgerald has two of his fanciful and imaginative fairy pictures (180, 261), and a humorous and most delightful "Breakfast Party" (146), with a good-natured girl in fits of ecstasy at the idea of the pigeons coming in for a share. The painting of the accessories is careful and painstaking, and the glimpse of landscape in the background very lovely. "Ite Domum" (32), by M. Tapiro, has many excellent points; and Mr. Richardson's "Bagpiper" (48) possesses merit. Miss J. Russell's "Waiting" (93) is so much better than her other works here that we hope it is the latest, and that she will continue to improve.

"Yanum" (280), by Mr. Phillips, is very spirited; and "Esther" (176), by Mr. Raymond Tucker (an artist whose name is new to us), is worked up with infinite diligence and patient skill, but wants relief; the further side of the face does not round off enough. Our space will not permit us to do as much justice as we should desire to the many meritorious works in the new gallery, which we feel sure will be established by the good sense of art-lovers as an annual exhibition, and to which we wish every success, as a catholic institution, of which the want has been long and severely felt by young artists.

EXTENSIVE RESTORATIONS AT WINDSOR CASTLE.—The weather-worn and ancient tower of Julius Caesar, at Windsor-terrace, better known as the "Belfry Tower," is being repaired, and the window openings and loopholes which light what were once the dungeons of the prisoners confined at the Royal pleasure, are being re-cased with new stone, while the walls facing Thames-street have been strengthened here and there, where required, by the insertion of new work. Portions of the buildings in the Horseshoe Cloisters, which abut upon the wall at this point, have also been restored, and new stone windows inserted more in accordance with the general style of the architecture of the Castle than those which have been removed.

THE CONSTABULARY OF THE TOWER.—The constabulary of the Tower, vacant by the death of Lord Conbermere, will either not be filled or will be constituted an honorary office. The salary, £947 a year, will resolve itself into nine good-service pensions of £100 a year each, which will be shortly distributed among the senior officers of the Army as rewards for distinguished or meritorious services. The post of Deputy-Lieutenant, held by Lord De Ros, falls within the same category of sinecure offices, to be abolished as vacancies occur; and, had the authorities made his resignation of it a condition precedent to his appointment as Colonel of the 4th Hussars, seven more of these rewards would have become available for the old and distinguished officers who are not yet in the way of obtaining regiments.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCES AND ANNUITIES.—The regulations for the insurance of lives with the Government and the purchase of Government annuities have been issued. In order that inquiries may be made as to the health and real age of the applicant he is to be required to give references—two respectable householders and his employer. On the insurance of a life there may also be a medical examination. Insurances will be void in case of death by the hands of justice or by suicide. If the insured shall, after insuring, follow certain hazardous occupations, or go beyond the limits of Europe, or enter upon active service as a soldier, he must pay higher premiums and obtain leave from the Postmaster-General. Persons insuring their lives or purchasing a future monthly allowance may make their payments even weekly; the amount insured will be paid over immediately after proof of the death. Life annuities or deferred monthly allowances purchased are to be free from all taxes. A life policy will not be exempt from probate duty. To cover costs and charges, a person purchasing an annuity, payable half yearly, may be required to pay a fee of 1s. for every £1 of annuity purchased. The business is to be conducted at post-offices, and at those offices the forms to be filled up, and an abstract of the regulations may be procured as soon as they shall be ready.

LAW AND CRIME.

WHAT ought to be the purpose and object of a police system? Should it not be the repression of crime and the protection of the honest portion of the community? The public, speaking for itself, might answer this question in the affirmative, but the police authorities generally entertain very different views upon this important subject. According to them, the first duty of the policeman is to suppress the ancient means of livelihood of the street-folk. He is to drive away stallkeepers, hawkers, and street-conjurors. He must permit, nevertheless, German bands, organ-grinders, and noisy vagrants to follow their vocations unmolested. No miserable creature on the verge of pauperism is to carry an advertising-board about town. But gangs of ruffianly boys may and do every Sunday evening parade the streets, especially around the fashionable circuit of Regent's Park, yelling language, within the hearing of ladies, of which every fifth word is foul. No policeman ever interferes with their amusements. Against all statutes to the contrary, a noisy fellow wakes up all Belgravia every Sabbath morning, just when over-worked professional men seek opportunity of an hour's extra rest, by shouting forth his desire to sell "New milk and large eggs!" and he is followed in the same line by a score of imitators two hours before church time. This is the way in which the police fulfil their municipal duties. When they come before the public in matters of crime, the disclosures, which they make in the most frank and innocent manner, are really astounding. A detective goes to a house to arrest a gang of burglars, as in the late affairs of the robberies of jewels. The constable calls one of them "Billy," another "Neddy," and appears to be upon social and familiar, not to say affectionate, terms of acquaintanceship with the whole gang. How is this to be accounted for? Are our police paid to associate with the thieves, keeping them, as it were, in a kind of fishpool, to be hooked out when fat enough to be profitable? Every now and then we have some enormous robbery, apparently untraceable. A large reward is offered, and then it is found that the thieves are upon such terms with the police that the latter address them by familiar abbreviations of their Christian names. If no reward be offered the culprits are not discovered at all. More than once have we heard of justice being actually defeated by detectives having waited for an increase of a proffered reward. We have been told of a detective who declared that the service, exclusive of rewards, would not pay, inasmuch as his salary was "five-and-twenty shillings a week, and find your own disguises." We have ourselves, in connection with a recent case which has formed a subject of grave public interest—a case which no less eminent a counsel than Mr. Sleight declared to be the most important which he had been engaged in for twenty years—followed step by step the track of a detective, and obtained at every movement information which was either denied to him or which he in other ways failed to obtain, but which nevertheless brought about the final and just consequences. As for their disguises, to which so much importance has been attached, they are transparent to the utmost. Dr. Johnson says that no profession imprints so strong a mark upon an individual as that of a soldier. Policemen were not in his day, or he would not have said so. The detective—with his measured tramp, his cleanly-shaven chin, his height, and his shoulder-of-mutton hand—is just as easily recognisable in a flannel jacket by the practised thief as though he wore the blue coat and numbered collar. We require a very different class of men to protect London. What is wanted is not a man who, if well rewarded, will find, in the person of an intimate acquaintance, the thief who has stolen the horse, but one who will not only watch the stable-door but be a dread to any rascal who might, under less favourable circumstances, entertain hopes founded upon the negligence of the proprietor.

The projected new law courts are estimated to cost the country an enormous amount. Beyond this, it is proposed to destroy no less than 348 houses inhabited by poor persons. Against this dispossession a cry—honest enough, no doubt—has been raised on behalf of the present occupants, and upon principles of humanity. Our own views of this subject are, nevertheless, that the proposed improvements do not go far enough. The houses to be destroyed, so far from being shelters for the poor, are their bane and destruction. The wretched hovels which are to this day allowed to exist in the very centre of the business world of the metropolis, are no benefit to the honest, industrious classes. They have been cleared, within the last few years, of some of the veriest dregs of society, since which period they long remained untenanted. The vilest of low lodging-houses occupy the most central business site in all London. A more comprehensive measure than that proposed would not only give the nation the law courts for nothing, but provide cheap and wholesome residences for the industrious classes, whom it appears to be the fashion to represent as rendered homeless by the destruction of the wretched courts between the Strand and Lincoln's Inn. If the entire ground eastward from Drury-lane were levelled, and a square erected with courts of justice in the centre, barristers' chambers around, and attorneys' offices in an outer district, the profits derivable from the two last named might readily be made not only to pay for the Courts, but for the building of whole streets dedicated to the labouring classes. Perhaps no greater service can be rendered to the honest poor than the destruction of those miserable dwellings which are now not allowed to be built, but which, while existent, minister to the greed of the avaricious small capitalists who let them out as weekly tenements. Since the great Fire of London the Legislature has been constantly trying to enforce progress in building. All the sufferings of the poorest, in ill-ventilated rooms, small, unhealthy houses and reeking courts are the result, not of destruction but of suzerainty. Star-court and Fountain-court, even Wych-street and Holywell-street, are disgraces to our age and our metropolis. Their destruction might be made profitable as well as beneficial to all the industrious classes if the matter were properly managed.

A fellow took a parcel, bearing a yellow ticket inscribed as from the London and North-Western Railway, 10s. 9d. to pay, to the house of Sir Hugh Cairns, and demanded the payment of the sum named for carriage. The butler opened the parcel and found in it two half bricks and a lump of coke.

The man who presented it was given into custody for having attempted to obtain money under false pretences and is under remand for a week.

The persons charged with being concerned in the City burglaries were brought up again at the Mansion House on Tuesday morning. Some further evidence was taken, and the prisoners were again remanded.

POLICE.

THE BAKER GIVEN INTO CUSTODY FOR PROPOSING. William Baynton, a smart-looking, middle-aged baker, of High-street, Woolwich, was charged with threatening the life of Mrs. Charlotte Eley, a buxom widow, residing in St. Mary-street, Whitechapel.

Complainant said, with much diffidence—Last night, at ten o'clock, the prisoner refused to leave my house, and, as he refused to leave, I was compelled to give him into custody.

Mr. Safford (clerk)—What did he go for? Was he alone?

Complainant—No, Sir. Some friends were with him. They were there all the afternoon.

Mr. Safford—But why did he refuse to leave?

Complainant—Well, Sir, you will understand, if you please, that he had asked me a question. That was it.

Mr. Safford—An offensive one? Come, you must inform the magistrate what the question was.

Complainant (bridling)—Well, Sir, you see, he asked me if I would marry him.

Mr. Safford—I will not ask you if that was offensive.

Complainant—No, Sir; oh no! but I told him that the surprise—the suddenness of—the—in fact, that I would, after due reflection, acquiesce in my decision by letter.

Mr. Safford—Oh! Well, Madam, what then?

Complainant—Well, Sir, he then became dreadfully violent, furious; swore that he would have me or my life. He has threatened me before, so I gave him into custody. He would not go away.

Mr. Safford—Was he sober?

Complainant—Yes, Sir; or, if not, a very little the other way.

Mr. Safford—Now, do you go in fear of him?

Complainant—Oh yes, Sir; that's why I gave him in charge.

Prisoner—No, Sir, she don't. There's nothing in it. I was in liquor.

Mr. Cooke—But I consider that there is something in it. You are not to go to the house of a respectable woman, and threaten her because she does not choose to accept your proposal. I order that you be bound over in your own recognisances in the sum of £25 to keep the peace for twelve months, and if in that space of time you break your surety you will be kept in prison for the remainder.

Prisoner—Thank you, Sir.

GROSS CRUELTY OF A GREENGROCER.—William Garrett, greengrocer, of Saville-place, Bow-road, appeared before Mr. Paget to answer a charge of assaulting and beating Ellen Venables, his servant-girl.

Mr. Charles Young, solicitor, defended the accused.

The complainant, a simple-looking girl, about fourteen years of age, said that on Wednesday morning last her master called her up at half-past seven or eight o'clock. He called her three times; but she only heard him once, and he brought a cane walking-stick into her room and struck her with it over her back and shoulders before she was dressed. He struck her seven or eight times, and she was in a good deal of pain. Her mistress was in the adjoining room when her master beat her. She did her work after she was beaten and then went home.

Mr. Young said he knew the assault could not be justified. He could only say, in palliation, that the defendant was very sorry he had struck the girl. Mr. Garrett was an early riser, and wanted his breakfast before he went out to market. He was disappointed, and in a moment of irritation went into the girl's bed-room and chastised her.

Mr. Joseph Twin, a messenger in the Seaman's Register Office, with whom the girl is now staying, said he had adopted the girl ever since she was six weeks old. She was a very good girl. She came home on Wednesday very ill and excited, and he found six weals on her left arm and shoulder. The marks were still visible.

Mr. Paget observed that the prisoner had committed a most unjustifiable assault on the girl. Masters were not permitted to chastise their servants, and it was a most unwarrantable and improper act to enter a girl's bedroom and beat her with a stick. He was in doubt whether he ought not to send the defendant to prison without the option of paying a fine. However, as the defendant had expressed contrition, he would fine him £5.

"MARRY IN HASTE AND REPENT AT LEISURE."—A respectable-looking young woman applied to Mr. Maude for advice. She said that in April of last year she formed the acquaintance of a young man, the son of a Liverpool gunsmith, who had a branch establishment in London. After corresponding for some time it was arranged that they should be married, and the banns having been published three consecutive Sundays in the Church of St. Alphege, Greenwich, they were married on Monday last. About half an hour after the ceremony had been performed a letter was received by her husband from his father objecting to the marriage taking place on the ground that her husband was of unsound mind. She had not, however, noticed anything peculiar in his conduct, except that he pined from her in the afternoon of her wedding-day, and she now wished to know whether the marriage could be annulled.

Mr. Maude, having examined the certificate of marriage, said there would be great difficulty in setting such a marriage aside, unless the friends of the husband could certify that he was a person not mentally competent to enter into such a contract at the time the marriage ceremony took place.

THE CASE OF THE MESSRS. BARRY.—John George and Alfred Barry, the proprietors of Meriton's Wharf, and the three men, Sedgewick, Arnett, and Thorne, who stand charged with conspiring to defraud several insurance offices of large sums of money, and also to steal a quantity of jute, appeared before Mr. Alderman Stone, according to the terms of their recognisances, in pursuance of an arrangement made at the close of the last examinations.

The surrender was merely formal, being for the express purpose of reading the depositions of the witnesses examined on the last occasion, in order to save the time of the Court when next the examination was continued.

Mr. Oke, the chief clerk, having read over the depositions, a few corrections were made, and the case was adjourned until March 27, the defendants' bail being enlarged for that period.

MURDER AT HACKNEY.—A youth, named Smith, was murdered by his aunt, at Hackney, on Friday week. The murderess, Elizabeth Carmichael, is the wife of a bell-hanger, who was engaged at his work in some houses called Nightingale-villas, Nightingale-road, Hackney. They lived in one of these villas as caretakers until it should be let. The woman had been subject to fits of despondency; and on Friday week, her husband, who seems to have looked upon these attacks as merely sulking, left her in his bed-room, in which the nephew, Smith—a lad of ten years of age—also slept. She did not make her appearance during the day; and in the evening the husband broke open the bed-room door and found the boy dead—his throat having been cut—and the woman with her throat also cut. She is not likely to recover.

DECREASE OF CRIME IN IRELAND.—It is gratifying to find, from the reports of the various assizes, that crime has been steadily on the decrease in Ireland since last year. On every circuit the judges have congratulated the grand juries on the state of their counties; and on Tuesday, at Roscommon, Mr. Justice Keogh had ample reason for performing this pleasant duty. At the Spring Assizes of 1864 there were eighty-eight cases on the calendar of this county, while at the present Assizes there are only twenty-seven. His Lordship praised the police for their activity in bringing offenders to justice. The state of the county of Westmeath is not so satisfactory; for, although

there has been a diminution in the number of offences committed since last assizes, the Lord Chief Baron regretted that there was still a great quantity of crime, and counselled the local authorities to exercise vigilance. He called the attention of the grand jury to an offence of rare occurrence in this country—viz., an attempt to seduce some of the military from their allegiance. This offence was formerly punishable by death, and the penalty is now imprisonment for life. In the course of the day a man named John Murphy was indicted for this offence.

"OF VERY REGULAR HABITS."

SOME twenty-five years ago, or perhaps a little more, an aged and highly-respected physician departed this life in one of the counties of Massachusetts. In fact, this worthy gentleman had reached, at the time of his decease, the extraordinary age of 105 years. No little interest, as may be imagined, had hovered around his slowly-declining days, and this was naturally awakened to fresher concern at the period of his long-deferred death. He had always enjoyed the full esteem of his fellow-citizens and of the medical profession, which naturally looked up to him as its father and guide. The period of his death was one of great excitement in regard to the temperance question, and it was felt that most important lessons for the benefit of the cause could be derived from an investigation of the ordinary habits of a gentleman of education and scientific attainments, whose life had been protracted to such an advanced period, doubtless owing to the rigorous adherence to the laws of health, as promulgated and enforced by the total abstinence advocates of the day. Accordingly, after the lapse of a due season, a committee was deputed on the part of the temperance societies to wait upon some near relatives of the old gentleman deceased, in order to learn positively what had been the course of his life, and by what means he had so long preserved an existence, in the possession of mental and physical vigour, until at length it yielded to the absolute decay of bodily powers, without the intervention of any acute disease. The deputation, having proceeded to the ancient physician's late place of residence, waited upon a gentleman, who was his grandson, to obtain from him all the particulars concerning his aged relative. After due sentiments of condolence had been expressed, the suitable inquiries were propounded.

"Doubtless," said the chief interlocutor, "your grandfather, enjoying such a remarkable span of existence, was a strict observer of the rules of temperance, and we need not express our confidence that he indulged in no excess in the use of hurtful kinds of drink." "Oh, no, Sir!" said the person inquired of. "You may be quite sure of that. My grandfather was a person of very regular habits."

"But we should like to know, if you please," pursued the questioner, "something in particular regarding his mode of life; how, for instance, he began, and passed, and ended the day?" "Well, Sir, when he first rose in the morning he took about half a glass of pure Jamaica rum; my grandfather was a person of very regular habits; this was his uniform custom." "This, I suppose," said the inquirer,

"was to give a sort of fillip to his system after the lethargy of lengthened repose, made requisite as an exceptional case by his very advanced period of life. Please tell us what his practice was during the rest of the day." "My grandfather, gentlemen, was a person of very regular habits, and took nothing else of this sort until eleven o'clock, and then only a glass of Jamaica rum." "Indeed; did he drink anything with his meals?" "Not exactly with his meals: about half an hour before dinner he drank a mixture to which he was partial, consisting of half and half of cider and rum. But after drinking that it was his custom to go out for a short walk and return to dinner. When dinner was about half through he would then drink, say, a glass of rum or whisky, as the case might be, and another when dinner was over. Dinner was always punctually on the table at one o'clock. He took no more until four o'clock, and after that a small quantity in his tea. His practice was not to drink anything else until near bedtime, which was always nine o'clock, when he had a glass or two of whisky or rum; unless, indeed, some neighbour or friend came in to join him. He was very hospitable always, and, as I have remarked, extremely regular in his habits."

The committee looked at one another and hesitated about pursuing the inquiry any further. It occurred to them, however, that it would be well to save themselves, if possible, in regard to the use of tobacco. "Did Dr. — ever smoke?" asked the chairman. "That," said their host, "was one of his most regular habits. He was not often without a pipe in his mouth, when not engaged professionally. He did not smoke in his bed." "Surely, then, he used tobacco in no other way?" suggested the interrogator. "My grandfather, every Saturday afternoon, gentlemen, purchased a certain quantity of pigtail tobacco, say, from twenty-one to twenty-three inches in length. This he cut up into seven different portions, one of which per day, and no more, he used for chewing in the course of the seven days of the week. My grandfather's habits, as I have observed, — "Oh, confound your grandfather and his habits!" broke in the questioner, out of all patience. "I beg your pardon, Sir, but it is not necessary to pursue this subject any further."

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MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

ALTHOUGH the Government brokers have purchased several parcels of stock for the redemption of the National Debt, all Home Securities have been extremely inactive, at further depressed rates, and the quantity of stock in the hands of the jobbers is increasing. Consols, for Money, have been done at 88½; Ditto, for Account, 88½; Reduced and New Three per Cents, 86½; Exchequer Bills 4s. to 7s. per cent. Bank stock has marked 240 to 245. Indian stocks, &c. have changed hands slowly. India Stock, 215 to 218; Five per Cent, 103½; Ditto Bonds, 10s. to 15s. prem.; Ditto Four per Cent. Ropes Paper, 90; Debentures, 98½.

There is a full average supply of money in the general Discount Market, and the London-bank discount is active, as the annexed rates for the best commercial bills:

Thirty Days' Bills	.. .. .	4½ per cent.
Sixty Days' .. .. .	.. .. .	4½ "
Three Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	4½ "
Four Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	4½ "
Six Months' .. .. .	.. .. .	4½ "

On the Continent money is tolerably easy in price, a very little gold has arrived from any quarter. For export, the inquiry is by no means active. Mexican dollars have found buyers at 60d. per ounce.

The leading change in the market for Foreign Securities is a fall in the value of the Confederate Loan to 3s. 6d. Spanish, &c. have been quiet, but the market is in price to the extent of from 1 to 1 per cent. Egyptian Scrip has marked 1½ to 1½ prem.; Italian, 2 to 1½; and Danubian, 3½ dis. ex div.; Brazilian Four-and-a-half per Cents have been done at 82½; Danubian, 1½ ex div.; Egyptian Seven per Cents, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Second Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Third Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fourth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Seventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Eighth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Ninth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Tenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Eleventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twelfth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fourteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Seventeenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Eighteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Nineteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twentieth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-first Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-second Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-third Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-fourth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-fifth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-sixth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-seventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-eighth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Twenty-ninth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirtieth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-first Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-second Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-third Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-fourth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-fifth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-sixth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-seventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-eighth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Thirty-ninth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fortieth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-first Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-second Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-third Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-fourth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-fifth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-sixth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-seventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-eighth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Forty-ninth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fiftieth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-first Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-second Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-third Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-fourth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-fifth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-sixth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-seventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-eighth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifty-ninth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixtieth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-first Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-second Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-third Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-fourth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-fifth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-sixth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-seventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-eighth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Sixty-ninth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Seventieth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Seventy-first Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Seventy-second Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Seventy-third Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Seventy-fourth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, Seventy-fifth Issue, 94½ ex div.; 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Ditto, One-hundred-and-first Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-second Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-third Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-fourth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-fifth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-sixth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-seventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-eighth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-ninth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-tenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-eleventh Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-twelfth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-thirteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-fourteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-fifteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-sixteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-seventeenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-eighteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-nineteenth Issue, 94½ ex div.; Ditto, One-hundred-and-twentieth Issue, 94½ ex div.; 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